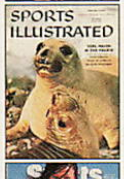

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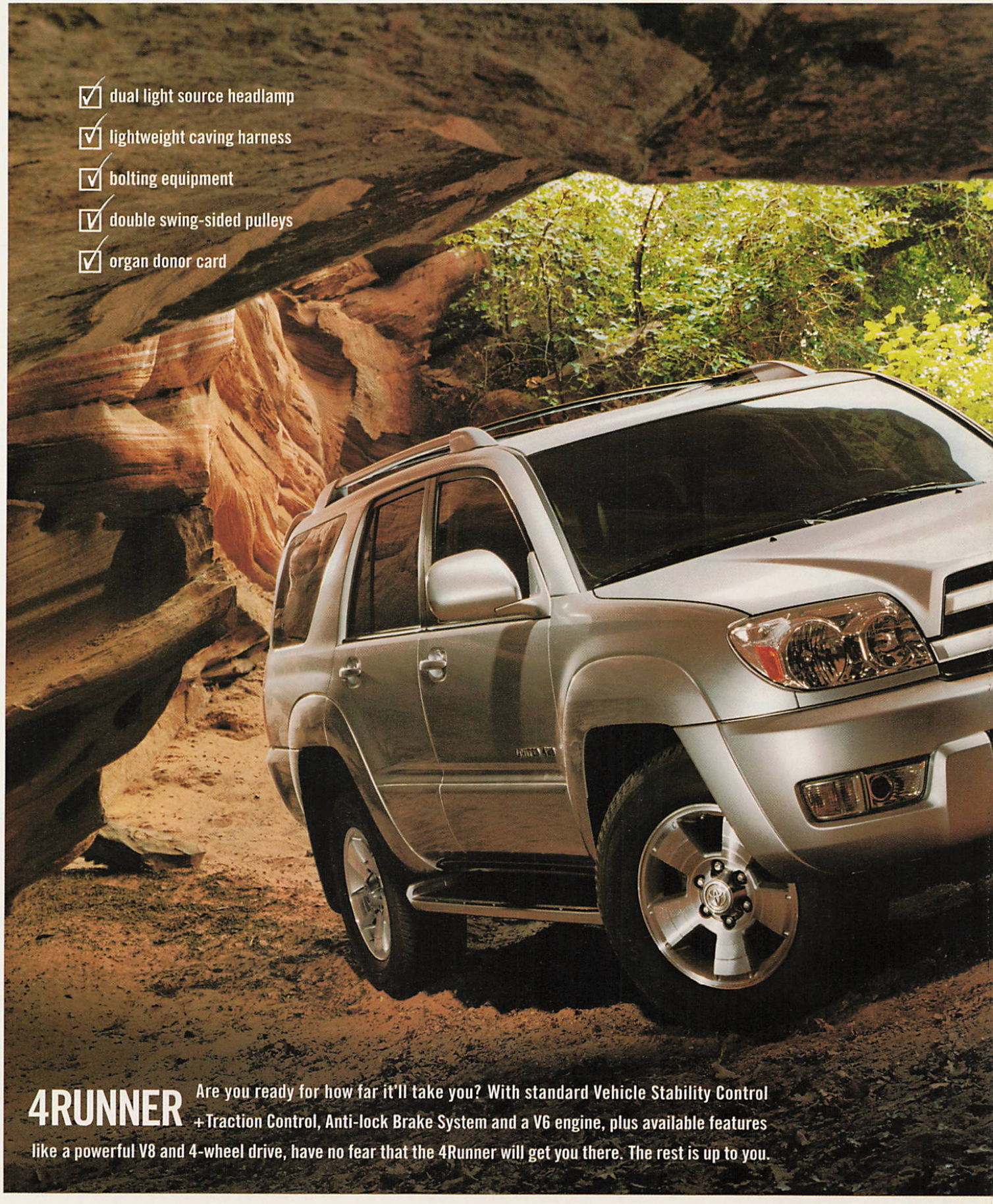
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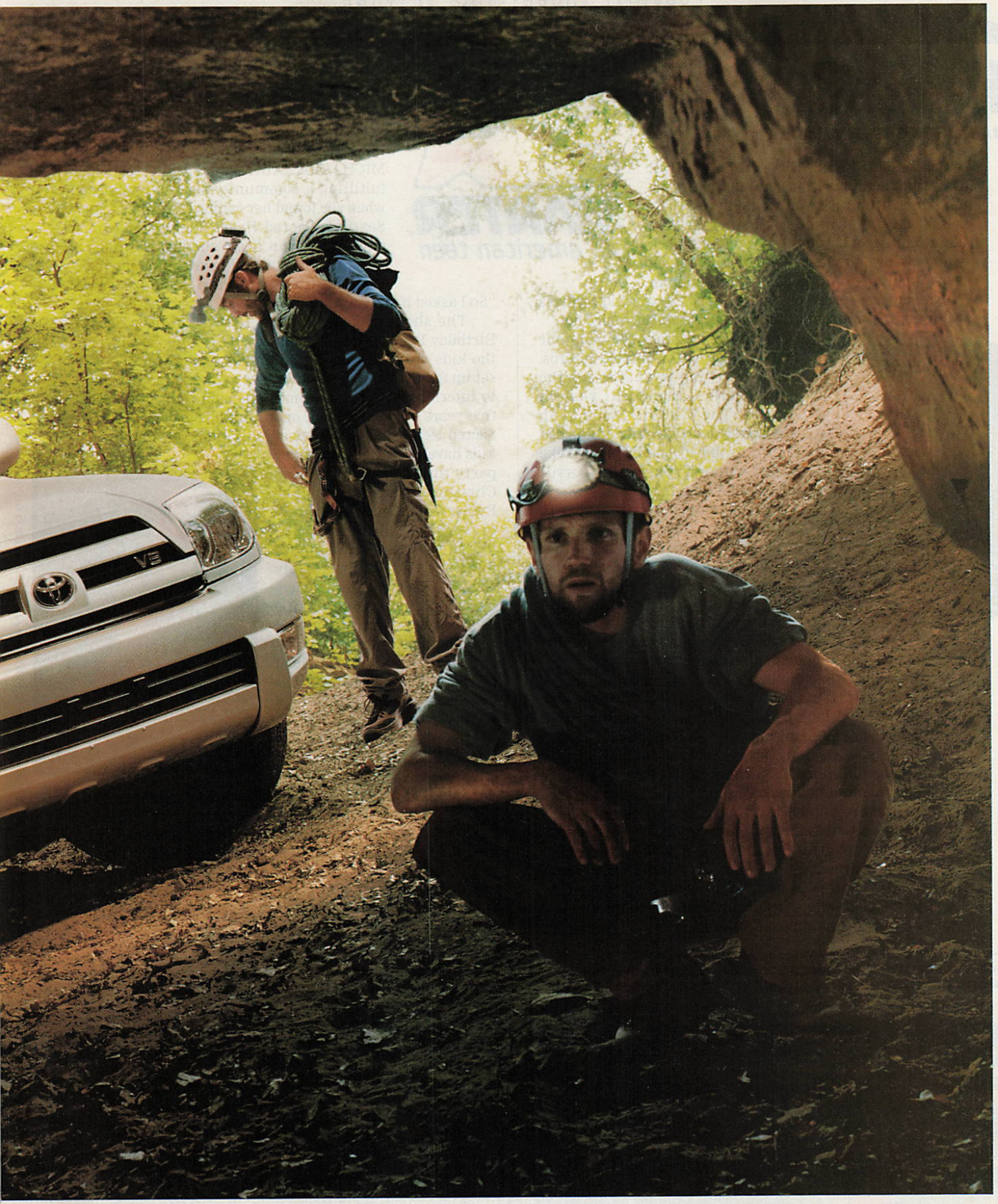

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50 STATES, 50 OUTSTANDING YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN

KANSAS

JARRETT PERRY/Wichita

STARTER all-american teen

WATCHING JARRETT PERRY LEAD JUNIOR ROTC calisthenics sessions or outstroke opponents in a swim race, you would never know he's disabled. And as he sees it, he isn't. "It's all in your head: If you think you're disabled, you are," says the 16-year-old, whose left leg was amputated mid-thigh soon after birth to prevent the spread of an infection. "Your mind controls your body. If you don't think you're disabled, you're not."

Disability doesn't down Perry.

Perry holds eight U.S. and four Pan Am disabled swimming records, and he's trying to qualify for the Paralympic Games next year in Athens. The Wichita Swim Club and Southeast High standout placed eighth in the 100-meter backstroke at last winter's state meet—versus able-bodied swimmers.

Perry refuses to park his car in handicapped spots and leaves his state-of-the-art prosthetic leg in a locker while swimming. He overcomes less kick strength with a powerful upper body and sound technique, hardened in grueling practices. Perry averages 63 miles a week in the pool and has defeated enough able-bodied swimmers to command respect and admiration from area teams, coaches and parents. "He's a pretty tough kid," club coach Eric Nelson says. "I look back and think, My God, he's got one leg! Look at him taking these boys to town."

He is just as impressive when not competing. The well-spoken Junior ROTC cadet captain marches with the drill team, officiates swim meets, plays viola in the school orchestra and is training for his pilot's license.

Perry embraces the attention his excellence attracts. He lets kids touch his leg and gives talks about prosthetics. "People are afraid of what they don't know," says Perry, who aspires to become a general surgeon. "I'm trying to get people with disabilities out there to show that we can do anything."—*Jordan Hyman*

WASHINGTON

MICHAELA RAIKES/Seattle

MICHAELA RAIKES WAS A SIXTH-GRADER fulfilling a community service requirement when she found her calling. While working at Seattle's Sacred Heart Shelter for women and children in need, she learned none of the kids there would have a birthday celebration. "It was a big deal to me," she says. "So I asked if they would let me put birthday parties on."

The shelter agreed, giving life to Raikes's Secret Birthday Pal project. She created questionnaires to learn the kids' interests, paid for supplies herself and helped set up for the parties. Then Raikes vanished, not wishing to interfere with tender family moments. Over the past five years her one-woman operation has grown to serve Sacred Heart and two other organizations. "A lot of our kids have never had a birthday party thrown for them," says Christena Coutsoubos of the Ryther Child Center. "They get to say exactly what they want."

Raikes makes kids' birthdays a ball.

The secret is out about Raikes, now a junior at Holy Names Academy. After Prudential honored her with a $1,000 award, news items appeared and donations rolled in. Raikes still declines to attend many of the parties, yet gratitude finds her in heartfelt letters or a mother's tearful hug.

Secret Birthday Pal has inspired Raikes to give back in other ways. She plays with and tutors kids at the Children's Home Society of Washington, and she's pondering a career working with at-risk youth. But first she has classes to attend, basketball to play for Holy Names—and, of course, parties to plan. "We have a kid who listed five different favorite colors," Coutsoubos says, laughing. "I don't know what the cottage will look like that day." Of course, she's confident Raikes will find a festive solution.—*Alec Morrison*

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE PERRY FAMILY (LEFT); COURTESY OF THE RAIKES FAMILY

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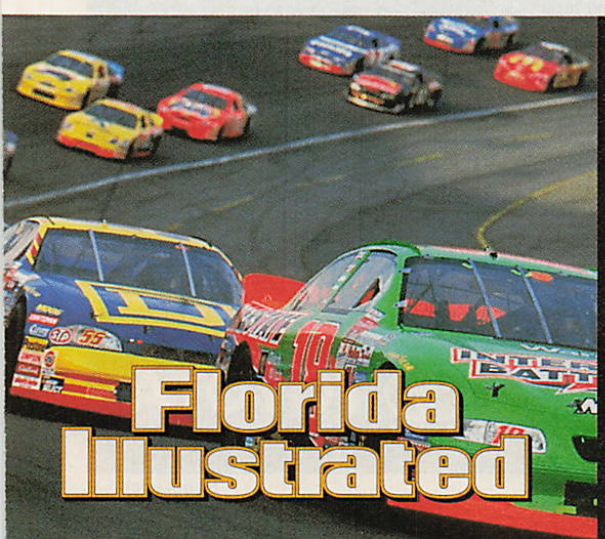

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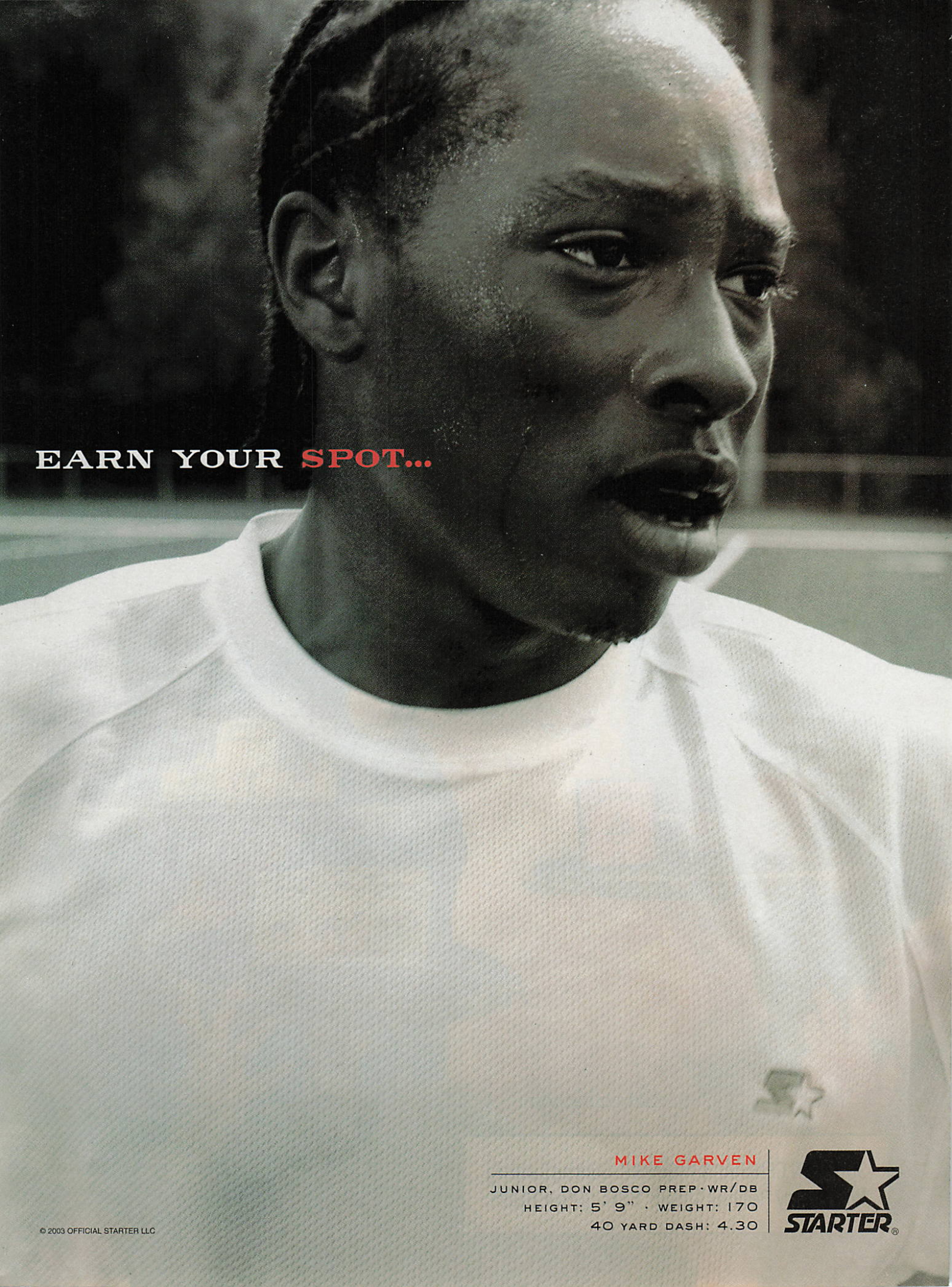

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COVER FLAP PHOTO: BILL FRAKES

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PETER READ MILLER (SKY EXTENDED BY SI IMAGING)

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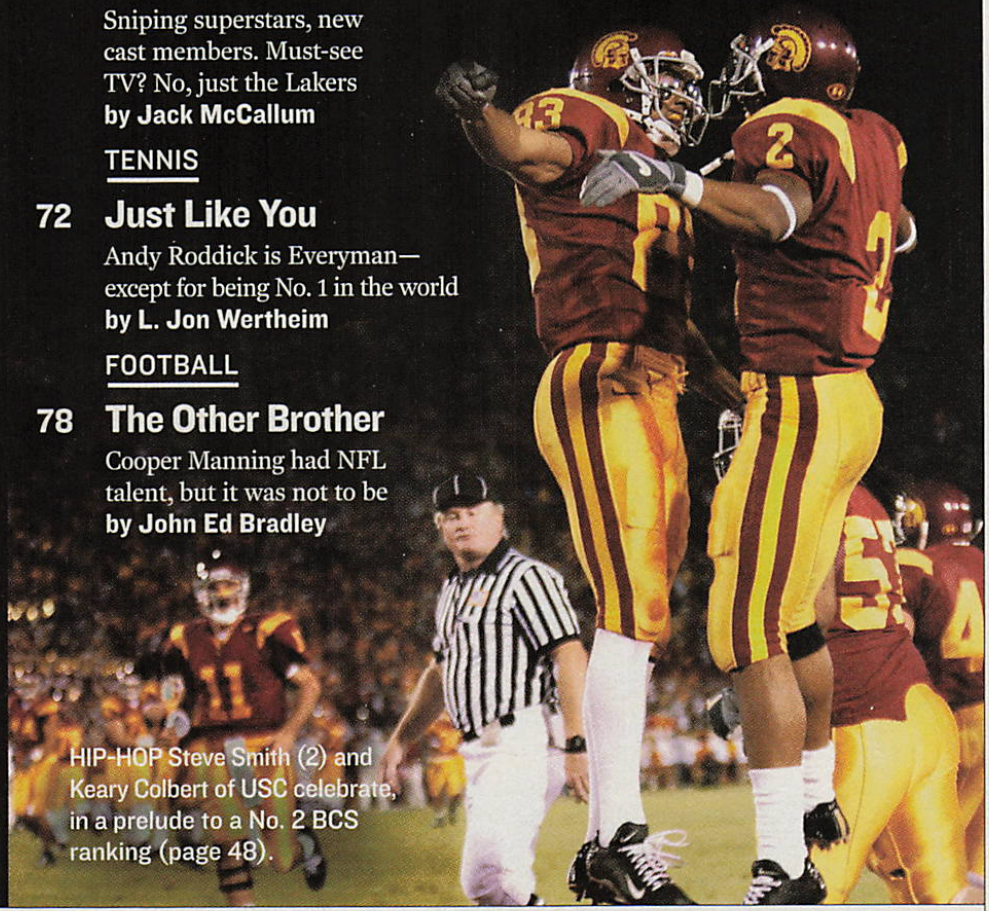

HIP-HOP Steve Smith (2) and Keary Colbert of USC celebrate, in a prelude to a No. 2 BCS ranking (page 48).

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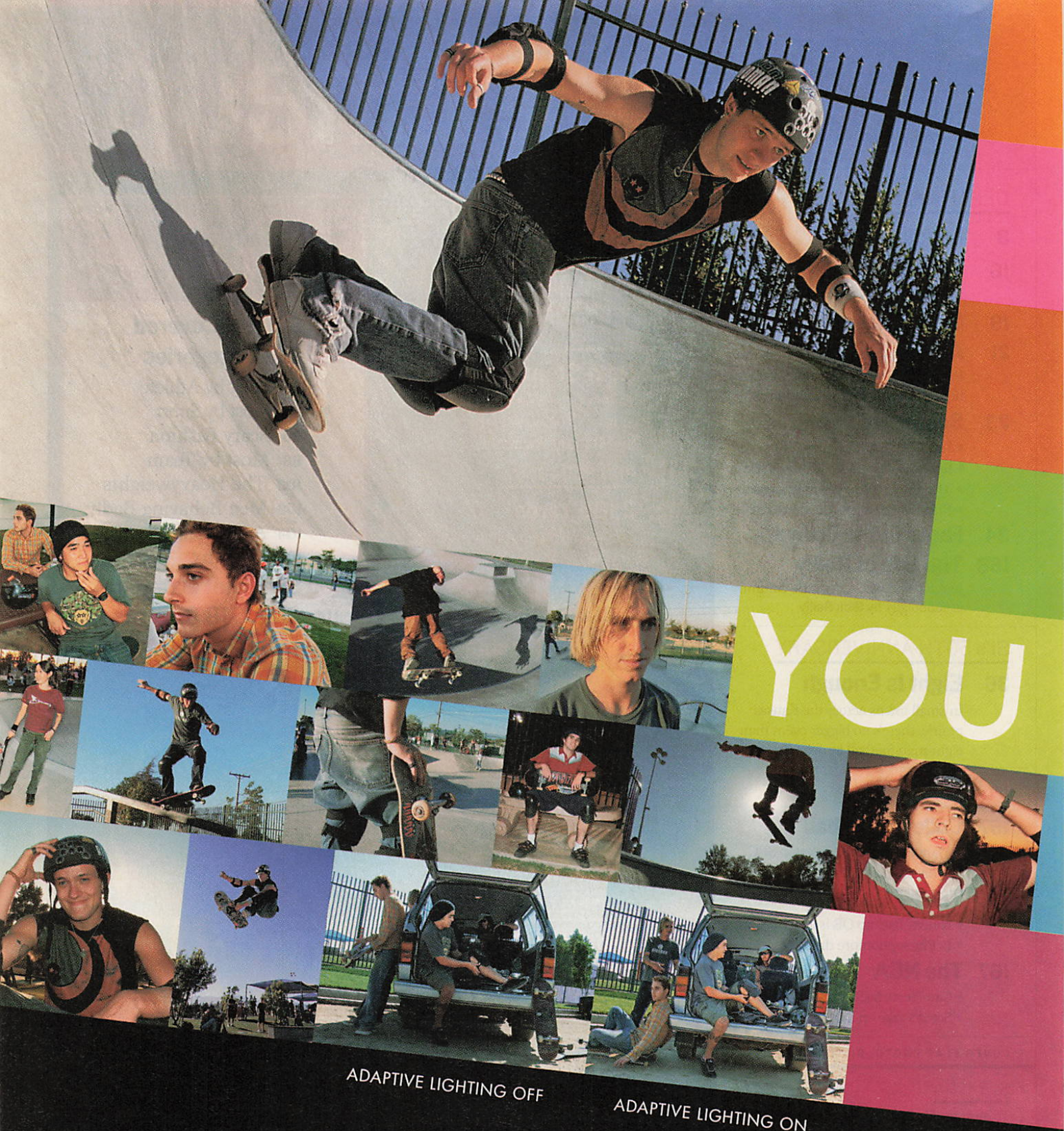

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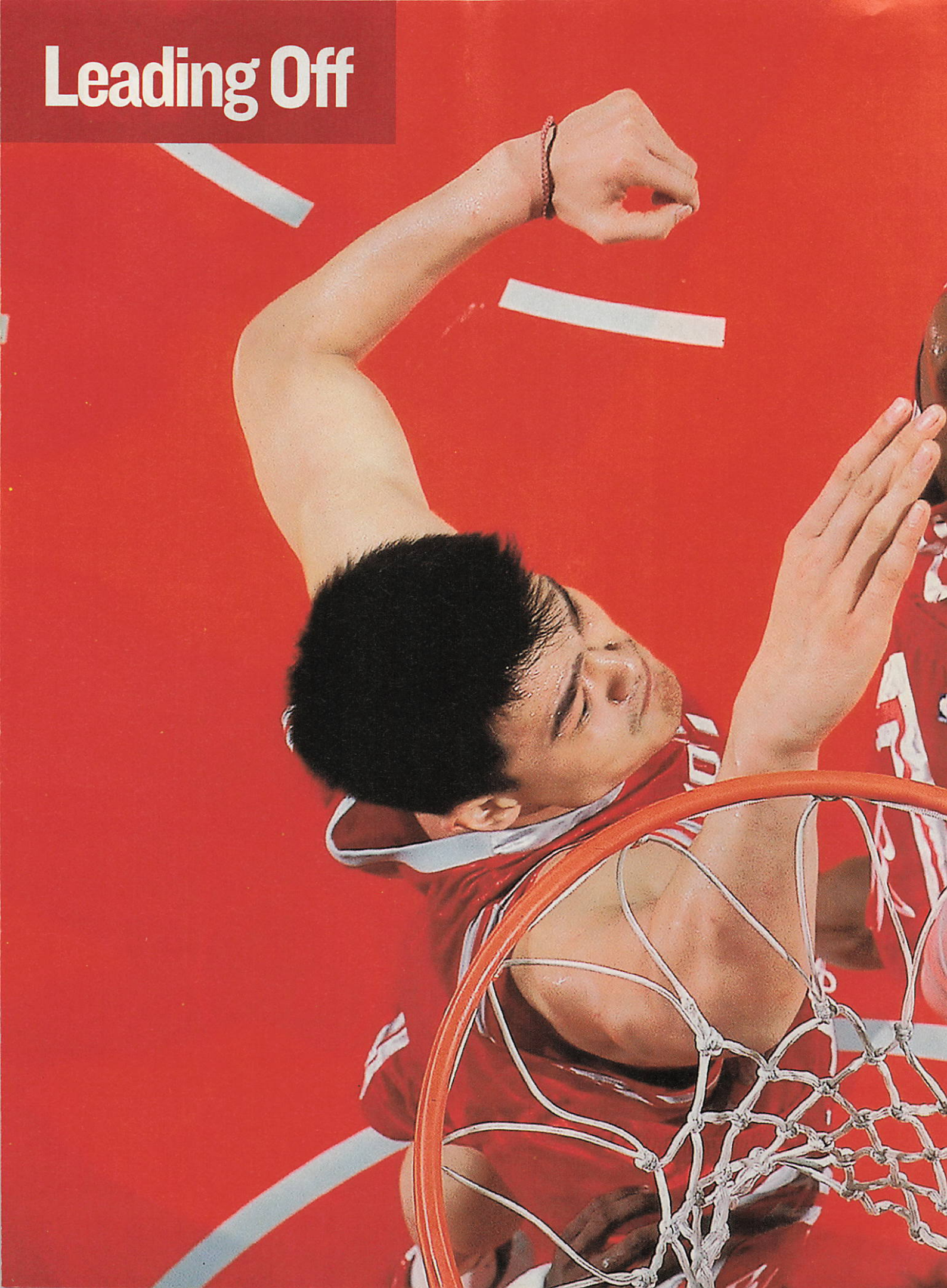
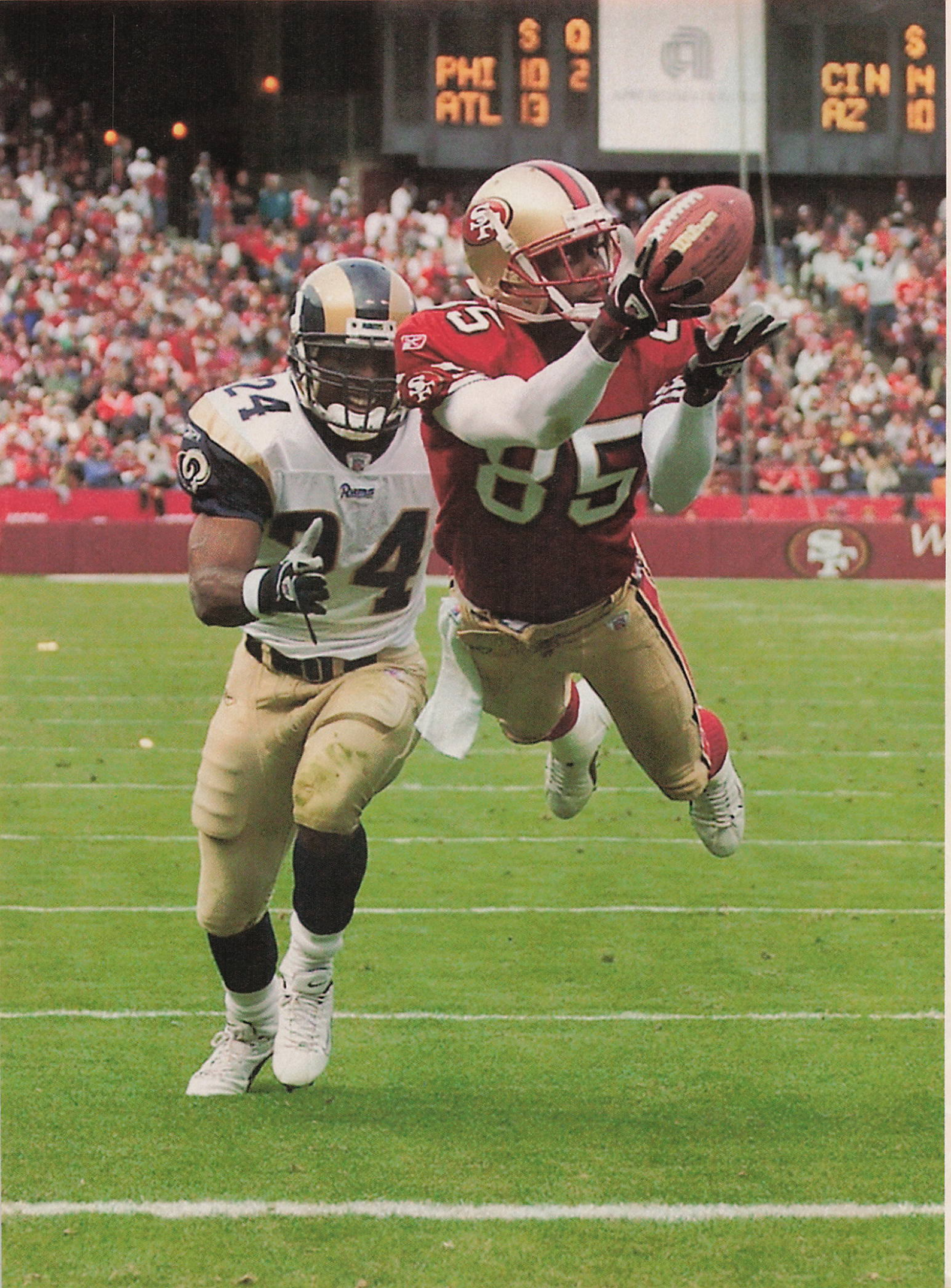


Yao Goes It, Kid?

Rockets center Yao Ming, now a seasoned second-year man, greets Nuggets rookie Carmelo Anthony on his way to the basket during the teenager's second regular-season NBA game, a 102–85 Rockets victory. Anthony had 18 points and nine rebounds.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GREG NELSON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Leading Off

Flight 85

Niners wideout Brandon Lloyd, having beaten Rams corner DeJuan Groce, goes flat out to haul in a TD pass from supersub quarterback Tim Rattay, who sparked San Francisco's 30–10 win (page 160).

PHOTOGRAPHS BY PETER READ MILLER

Leading Off

Schlopy Form

At the FIS World Cup in Soelden, Austria, Eric Schlopy of the U.S. falls and snaps his skis during the first run of the giant slalom, which was won by his teammate Bode Miller.

PHOTOGRAPH BY IRMICH GONDA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

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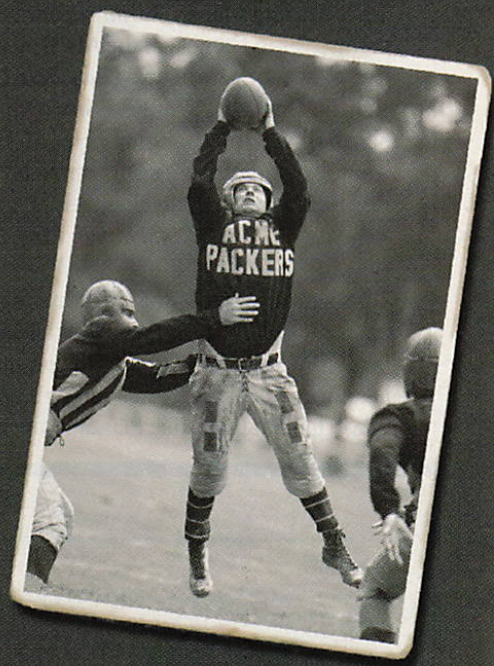
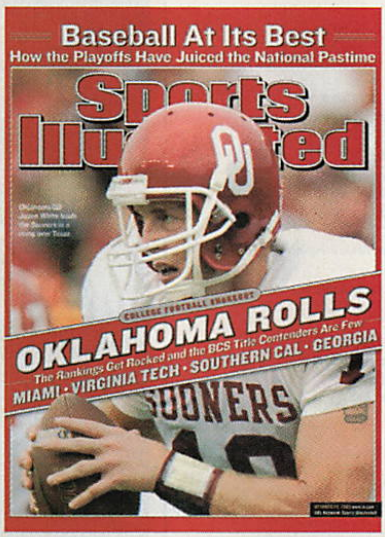


Saturday's Heroes

Austin Murphy's *College Football Shakeout* (Oct. 20) captures the innocent pageantry that still exists in what is becoming a big-business sport. In the end college football is still about young men, most of whom are playing for nothing more than the glory of the game itself, performing in front of fans, young and old, who often feel a kinship to the team that is closer than the one they feel for a professional franchise. You are not, for example, a Sooners fan; you are a Sooner. Florida State will never threaten to move to Los Angeles if it does not get a palatial new stadium. It is, mostly, just about football.

Steven D. Leach, Phoenix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Boston Bedlam

The entire Boston Red Sox organization and all their fans should be thoroughly disgusted and ashamed of the way Pedro Martinez and Manny Ramirez conducted themselves in Game 3 of the ALCS against the New York Yankees (*Baseball Gets Rowdy*, Oct. 20). The Red Sox owe the baseball world an apology, yet all they want is sympathy. The only curse on the Red Sox is the Red Sox themselves.

Kim Napoli, Clay, N.Y.

Tom Verducci wrote that Martinez's reputation would be besmirched for allegedly throwing at Karim Garcia. Do you mean besmirched like Roger Clemens's reputation for sending Mike Piazza to the hospital? Or besmirched like Clemens's reputation for throwing a broken bat at Piazza? Or like Clemens's reputation for melting down on the mound in the 1990 playoffs? I can't feel any sympathy for anything that happens to a team with Clemens, the game's premier headhunter, in its starting rotation.

John W. Royal
Webster, Texas

You spend an entire page on how Pedro Martinez's reputation has been damaged, yet you only used one paragraph on the real villain of Game 3, Don Zimmer. Don't tell me a 72-year-old man can't control his emotions. Zimmer should have been fined as much as, if not more than, Martinez. It was his reputation that was lost that day.

Louis Sears, Ithaca, N.Y.

The Real Winners

After reading Rick Reilly's *Worth the Wait* (THE LIFE OF REILLY, Oct. 20), I had my wife, my parents and—most important—my 11-year-old daughter, Caitlin, read it too. Caitlin is a sixth-grader who, like Ben Comen, gets A's and B's (mostly A's, she pointed out after reading the column). She also has cerebral palsy that affects her left side. I've never seen Ben run, but I can imagine the inspiration he provides. Every Saturday for the past three years Caitlin and her little sister, Andrea, have gone to swimming lessons. Andrea is excellent with a near flawless stroke and has progressed to the highest level. Caitlin's stroke, as you can imagine, is far from flawless, and her kick is so weak she barely moves through the water. Sometimes the instructor has to give her a little push to get her moving, but Caitlin never stops kicking. Deep down I've been expecting her to get frustrated with her lack of progress and quit. I now realize she may not, and I'm glad. Kids like Ben remind us that winners are not just the ones who finish first.

Drew Wilson, Pittsburgh

Less Kobe and more Comen.

Hunter Reid, Greenville, S.C.

Like Ben Comen, I have cerebral palsy. Unlike Ben, I am unable to walk, so I use a wheelchair to get around. I would like to make a clarification, if I may. Cerebral palsy is not a disease, it is a condition. The article stated that Ben wants to go to college to become a doctor. I am a junior in college myself, so I have no doubt that Ben will go to college and pursue his dream.

Katie Martin, Millersville, Pa.

What the heck are you guys doing to the world of sports? I read SI to get my weekly fill of spoiled, cheating, lawbreaking, drug-taking, self-absorbed athletes. So what do I get instead? First Steve Rushin enlightens and inspires me with his story about disabled golfers (AIR AND SPACE, Sept. 22), then Reilly brings tears to my eyes and makes me stand and cheer with his story about a track athlete with cerebral palsy. You'd better be careful. Any more stories like these and you are liable to give sports a good name.

Steve Feld, Englewood, Colo.

A Face in the Crowd

I was glancing at the picture of the Bleacher Bums celebrating the Chicago Cubs' Central Division title (LEADING OFF, Oct. 6) when the unmistakable glare of wire-rimmed glasses caught my attention. The outstretched hand, the pulled-down ball cap, the Notre Dame sweatshirt . . . it's none other than Steve

IS IT BARTMAN? He won't respond to media inquiries, so we can't say for sure.

Bartman, the fan who interfered with the ball in the eighth inning of NLCS Game 6. Little did he suspect that his 15 seconds of fame would extend into the following fateful week. And little did SI or your readers know that even fans cannot escape the dreaded SI jinx.

Stacy Janicki, St. Paul

PETER READ MILLER (COVER); JONATHAN DANIEL/GETTY IMAGES

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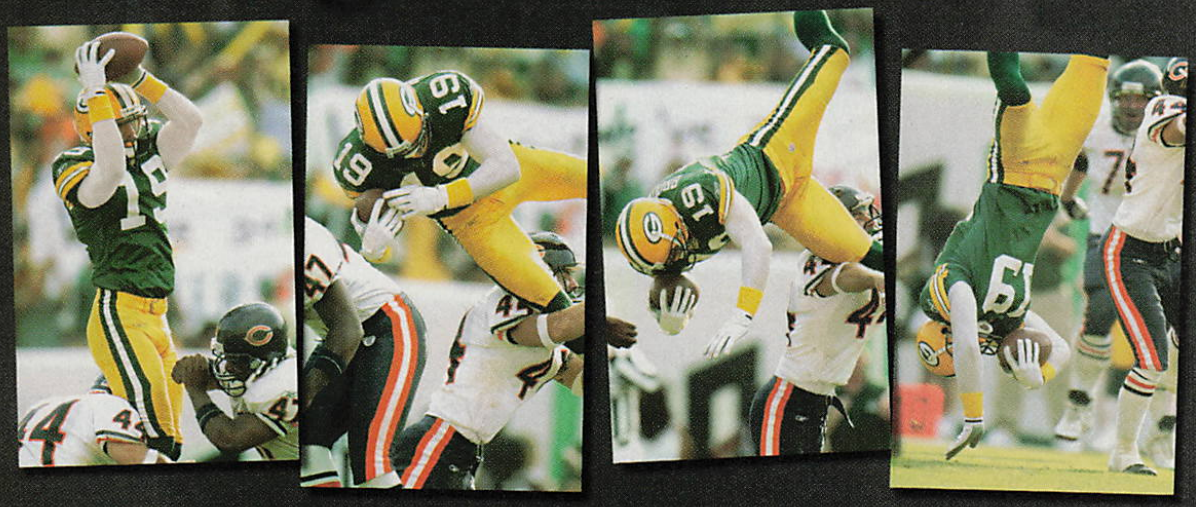

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Cover to Cover

FRONT MAN "Somehow," says Roe, "we managed to shoehorn in every cover."

PUTTING TOGETHER this week's retrospective on 50 years of SI covers was like taking the Christmas decorations down from the attic: It made us sneeze (some of our office copies are turning to dust), and it made us remember. Looking back on his 229 covers, staff photographer Walter Iooss Jr., a 43-year SI veteran, recalled the frustration he felt in the spring of 1984 while shooting candid pictures of Yogi Berra, who was then rejoining the Yankees as their manager. "It was like trying to catch a butterfly with your bare hands," says Iooss, who was working on the baseball preview. "Every time I got near him, he'd get up and move. I just kept following him around taking pictures, mostly of his back." Yogi never did sit still, but his famous number 8 became the centerpiece of that week's cover *(page 98)*, beside the headline YOGI'S BACK!

Neil Leifer, who has shot 169 covers for the magazine since 1961, used a bit of psychology to pull off a dicey group shot of Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier and Don King for the Thrilla in Manila preview story in October 1975 *(page 130)* . "Back then," says Leifer, "every time the fighters got together, Ali would taunt Joe and they'd end up in a shoving match. Howard Cosell couldn't keep those two together for an interview." Leifer's solution: bar everyone from the studio except the boxers and King. "Without an audience to play to," says Leifer, "Ali was an angel."

Senior editor Bob Roe had the task of assembling the 58-page covers package, which includes the first-ever index showing all 2,548 covers in chronological order, starting with Eddie Mathews swinging for the bleachers on the issue dated Aug. 16, 1954 *(page 114)*. Roe, who's been at SI since 1998, tapped rookie reporter Lisa Altobelli back in September to research the covers. "I ended up working with 75 pages of spreadsheets listing covers and their issue dates," says Altobelli, who is wrapping up her master's in journalism at Columbia this spring. "And I wore out the carpet between my cubicle and the SI library." As closing time drew near, says Roe, "the real challenge was getting enough pages for this and still covering the important news of the week—the NFL, NBA, NHL and the fate of Don Zimmer."

Altobelli

Hercik

Along with deputy art director Christopher Hercik—who spent six weeks designing the package while eagerly awaiting the birth of his first child, Grace—Roe and Altobelli created lists showing which athletes, teams and sports have appeared on the most covers. Eventually they spotted some unusual patterns. "We came up with a category called Women with Weapons because there was this whole era, in the '50s, when the covers showed women with guns or bows and arrows," Altobelli says. "In the '70s there were all these men with porn-star mustaches. So we have Big Bad 'Stache as part of our style section *(page 96)*."

It was staff photographer Bill Frakes, however, who achieved a pinnacle of SI cover portraiture on the issue of March 1, 1993. To mark George Steinbrenner's return to baseball after a 2½-year exile imposed by former commissioner Fay Vincent, Frakes shot the imperious Yankees owner dressed as Napoleon and riding on a white horse *(page 96)*. How hard was it to talk Steinbrenner into posing as the great emperor? "Not hard at all," Frakes says. "In fact, George supplied the horse." Which only proves that for every cover there is indeed a cover story. □

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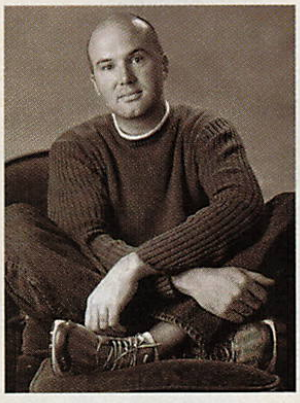
Can This Marriage Be Saved?

by Steve Rushin



JEFFERY A. SALTER

KOBE THINKS he wears the pants in the family, Shaq thinks that *he* does. Kobe complains that Shaq doesn't call, Shaq complains that Kobe's aloof. Kobe threatens to walk out on Shaq, Shaq tells him to go right ahead. And so Kobe says, in a moment of cruelty, that Shaq's butt has gotten big. Sound familiar? "It sounds like a marriage," says Dr. Joyce Brothers. When Shaq says Kobe hogs the ball, he might as well be talking about the covers.

What Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant really need, if the Los Angeles Lakers are to win another title *(page 66)*, isn't the Mailman. It's Dr. J. Says Dr. Joyce, "Some people are incompatible, and the best thing for them to do is divorce. But a really good coach might be able to stop this squabbling." Good coach? They need a good marriage counselor. The Lakers are way beyond Coach Phil and now require *Dr.* Phil, who likes to say, "Competing can quickly turn a relationship into an ugly battle of one-upmanship. How can you possibly be a winner if it is at the expense of making the person you supposedly love a loser?"

This couple keeps playing "He Said, He Said," Shaq insisting he's the Man, Kobe suggesting that *he's* the Man. "Constant one-upping can be a real issue in *all* relationships," says Dr. Brenda Shoshanna, a psychologist and couples counselor based in New York City. "It goes on with parents and children, with office workers. The Lakers need to understand that each person is *a* Man, working toward a common purpose. And when that happens—when a team is like five fingers on a hand—they will be unstoppable."

But Shaq says Kobe is selfish, and Kobe says Shaq is childish. "Therapists call this displacement," says Audrey B. Chapman, a family therapist in Washington, D.C., where she hosts a radio show aimed at African-American listeners. "We displace our anger, frustration and fear onto something else." Like the uncapped toothpaste. Or the seat left up. Or the missed first day of training camp in Hawaii.

"I think O'Neal is angry and frustrated with the amount of attention Kobe has gotten lately [for his upcoming rape trial]," says Chapman. "And while it's negative attention, it still takes away from O'Neal, who is handling it by getting personal. Character assassination. You see that a lot with couples that are competitive."

When it comes to basketball, Dr. Joyce is not Dr. Jack Ramsay. ("Now, was Shaq also the coach of the Lakers?" she asks me.) However, she does know human nature. "Both Shaq and Kobe are used to being the moon and the sun and the stars," she says, in her soothing purr of a voice that's familiar to audiences from 50 years of American television. "Kobe is getting an *enormous* amount of publicity at the moment—not all of it good, granted—and Shaq is used to having that. Now, he has to compete for it."

Indeed, Kobe agrees that Shaq is jealous. (Shaq says Kobe is.) Kobe says Shaq exaggerates his own injuries. (Shaq says Kobe won't play hurt.) The question is, Can this marriage be saved? "These two guys are not relationship-savvy enough to stop the cycle," says Ellen Sue Stern, author of *Loving an Imperfect Man* and *He Just Doesn't Get It.* "This sounds to me like, 'My d--- is bigger than your d---.' "

Not literally, mind you. At least not yet. But few would be surprised if it came to that. Says Chapman, "When you have two massive egos like this, each would rather have his own arm chopped off than submit to the other." That, too, could happen this season.

For now, Kobe has told Shaq he'll walk out on the Lakers after this season. "When that threat is in the air in a marriage, it's very dangerous, because it creates an insecurity," says Shoshanna, author of, appropriately enough, *Why Men Leave.* "Issues of abandonment are stirred up. It says to the partner, 'I can't count on this person, this person's not really there for me.' It's not a good note to strike, in a relationship or on a sports team."

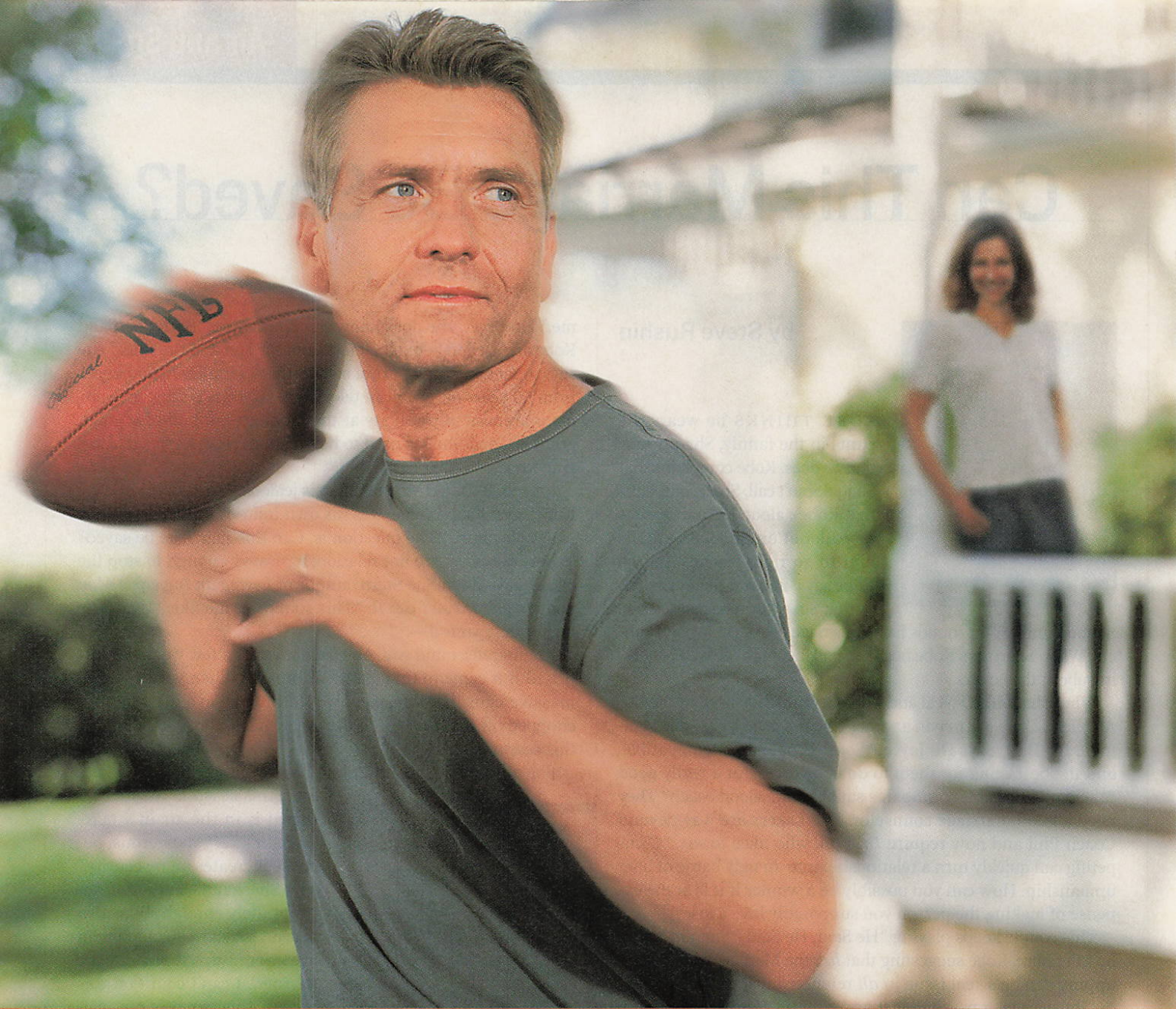
> When it comes to Kobe and Shaq, the Lakers are way beyond Coach Phil and now require *Dr.* Phil.

So what can be done? "I would say the same to Shaq and Kobe as I'd say to Arafat and Sharon or any other alpha males who have a hard time dealing with these things," says Stern. "I'd say, 'What doesn't get better does get worse. Would you rather *be* right or make things right?' "

Alas, these alpha males keep rising to the bait of us zeta males in the media. We're toxic friends, driving wedges between Shaq and Kobe. Instead of listening to *Men Are from Mars, Women Are from Venus* author John Gray ("Forgiveness is power"), they listen to reporter Jim Gray ("Shaq says that you have not been a team player, [Kobe]. Is he right?").

And so the unholy union of O'Neal and Bryant might be *worse* than a bad marriage, as I learned the other morning, when my phone rang at home. "This is Dr. Joyce Brothers. I thought of one other thing," she said. "At least when two people are feuding in a marriage, they get to have make-up sex."

Sigh. This could be a *very* long winter in Los Angeles. □



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"She just yelled, 'A Shark bit me!' "—FOR THE RECORD, PAGE 26

Scorecard

Edited by Kostya Kennedy and Mark Bechtel

Back on the Bike

After a year of marital problems, and a brutally close Tour de France, Lance Armstrong is steering toward a new course

The route for next July's Tour de France was recently unveiled, and it's a doozy, with molar-rattling cobblestone sections and an unprecedented time trial up the switchbacked and insultingly steep Alpe d'Huez. With some Stateside cycling fans seeing, in the unconventional course, an attempt to Lance-proof the Tour, this seemed a good time to visit the man who won the last five of these races.

From the foyer of Lance Armstrong's house in a tony suburb of Austin, one glimpses framed yellow jerseys on the walls of a distant room. Strapped to chairs in his den are a pair of matching blue booster seats. But where are the boostees?

"They just left," says Armstrong of his twin daughters, Grace and Isabelle, who turn two this month. While four-year-old Luke often steals the show, the girls "are characters too," says their father. "They're awesome and gorgeous." Right now they live with their mother, Kristin, two houses away. "It's a good setup," he says. "We're within walking distance. We still do stuff as a family." He stops himself, then says, "Well, not as a family, exactly."

Other than confirming that he and Kristin are divorcing—and denying rumors linking him romantically to his "friend," actress Sandra Bullock—Armstrong declined to discuss "the personal stuff."

That "stuff" (he and Kristin separated last winter) was one reason he went into the 2003 Tour de France well shy of his top form. His early-season training was hurt by the crumbling of his marriage—"a disruption in my head and my heart," he says in his new book, *Every Second Counts*. (The couple's apparent reconciliation at the race was short-lived.) He was, at times before and during the race, sick to his stomach, bothered by tendinitis in his hip, badly dehydrated and oblivious to a brake pad rubbing against his tire. Not all his fortune was bad. His chief rival, Jan Ullrich, crashed in the penultimate stage, scattering hay bales and sealing the most dramatic of Armstrong's Tour victories. But the question remained: Was his close shave—he won by just 61 seconds—an aberration or a portent of decline?

"Listen, man," says Armstrong, "at 32 it's tough to think you're still improving physically." He is not a young 32. Hanging on the den wall near a picture of himself with former Austinite George W. Bush is a haunting close-up of a gaunt, bald, chemo-ravaged Armstrong.

"The race was a microcosm for the year," he says, getting back to the Tour. "Personal problems, a lot of distractions, extra time with the foundation." (The Lance Armstrong Foundation has raised some $30 million for cancer survivor programs and grants.) "It's a complicated life, and it's hard to manage. I've tried to back off somewhat."

He's done little racing these last few months. "I've been too busy," he says, "trying to manage this new life with the kids across the street."

Whatever complications that new life may bring, Armstrong will almost certainly be more settled emotionally as he prepares for the next Tour. He'll need to be because Ullrich has signed with a much stronger team and this Tour will be a bear, with those cobblestones and two time trials in the final week.

Which brings us to those accusations of Lance-proofing. "That's bulls---," he says, pointing out that the course includes finishes at La Mongie, the Plateau de Beille and the Alpe d'Huez—mountaintops on which Armstrong has won stages in recent years.

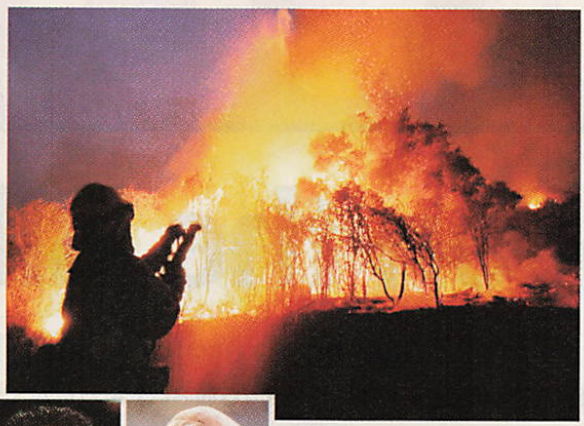
During a concert at his foundation's annual Ride for Roses in Austin last month, Armstrong was coaxed onto the stage by his buddy Lyle Lovett. Among the songs he sang was one whose chorus goes, "All I want is you." To the crowd's delight, Armstrong ad-libbed, singing, "All I want is . . . six." Don't bet against him. —*Austin Murphy*

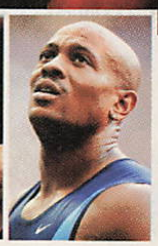
ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE BRODNER

Racing the Flames

The California fires touched the lives of athletes great and obscure

On Oct. 28 two golfers, nearing the 9th hole at the TPC course in Valencia, Calif., saw something strange: Hovering above a water hazard were several L.A. County Fire Department helicopters, sucking up water. Once filled, the copters roared off toward the wild fires raging five miles to the north—buzzing the golfers, who hit the deck as the choppers passed 10 feet over their heads.





HOT ZONE Barrera (far left) had to break training; Greene evacuated.

It was a common occurrence in California last week—a sporting venue commandeered in the battle against the fires that have killed at least 20 people and destroyed nearly 4,000 homes. California Speedway, which was to host the CART season finale on Nov. 1, became a relocation site for displaced families, and the race was canceled. The parking lot at Qualcomm Stadium also became a relief site, forcing the Chargers to move an Oct. 27 game with the Dolphins to Tempe. Last week the fires came within a mile of the Chargers' practice field, forcing the team to hold a walk-through on a basketball court at the UC San Diego campus. The Chargers left for Sunday's game in Chicago two days early, the travel arrangements thrown together by team executive John Hinek, whose home was destroyed by the fires.

Sprinter Maurice Greene was luckier. "I got my bank and insurance documents, Olympic gold medals, world championship medals," he said on Oct. 27 as he abandoned his mansion in Indian Springs. "I'm putting everything in God's hands." The next day Greene returned to his house, which wasn't damaged. UCLA's and San Diego State's football coaches Karl Dorrell and Tom Craft were both evacuated from their homes, and flames forced featherweight champ Marco Antonio Barrera out of Oscar de la Hoya's camp in Big Bear.

San Diego County high school sporting events were postponed last week, but with the fires largely under control, officials and players hoped the games would resume this week. "Five players lost their homes," said Scripps Ranch High football coach Sergio Diaz. "They're tired of watching the bad news on television. They see football as an escape." —M.B.

GO FIGURE

7 Overtimes in last Saturday's Arkansas-Kentucky game, which the Razorbacks won 71–63; Arkansas has now played in the three longest games in Division I-A history.

408 Wins for John Gagliardi of Division III St. John's (Minn.) after last Saturday's 15–12 victory over St. Thomas (Minn.), tying former Grambling coach Eddie Robinson's NCAA record for career coaching wins.

1 Combined years of college experience in the Cavaliers' lineup at one point during their opening game (one for Ricky Davis; none each for DeSagana Diop, LeBron James, Zydrunas Ilgauskas and Darius Miles).

53 Offensive plays (51 carries, two receptions) on which Michigan's Chris Perry touched the ball in Saturday's 27–20 win over Michigan State.

57 Offensive plays run by Michigan State against Michigan.

5 Straight losses for Penn State, its longest losing streak since 1931.

4 Consecutive seasons with at least 1,000 yards receiving for Division III Susquehanna (Pa.) wide receiver Mark Bartosic, the first NCAA player to accomplish that feat.

TIM TADDER/AP (FIRE); JOHN IACONO (BARRERA); YANNIS BEHRAKIS/REUTERS (GREENE)

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FOR THE RECORD

Severed In an attack by a 12-to-15-foot shark, the left arm of 13-year-old surfer Bethany Hamilton. Last Friday, Bethany, a promising competitor who won a national open in August and also beat many older surfers to win an event in Oahu in May, was lying on her board while surfing with friends off her home island of Kauai when the shark attacked without warning. "She just yelled, 'A shark bit me!' " said her father, Tom. The fish took the arm above the elbow and disappeared into the deep. Another surfer—Holt Blanchard, the father of Bethany's best friend—quickly fashioned a tourniquet out of a surfing leash before taking Bethany to a nearby hospital, where she is listed in good condition. Speaking to the Honolulu TV station KGMB on Saturday, Bethany said the shark, which also took a 16-by-8-inch bite out of her surfboard, had pulled her around, "but I just held on to my board and then it let go." Bethany, who was to undergo a second surgery on Monday, has not said whether she will continue to surf competitively.

Hamilton

Requested That his milestone 37-yard pass be erased from the record books, Springfield (Ill.) Southeast High senior quarterback Nate Haasis. Near the end of an Oct. 25 game against Cahokia High, the last game of the season, Haasis was 31 yards shy of 5,000 for his career—a mark only 11 Illinois high school quarterbacks have passed. The teams' coaches struck a deal: Southeast would let Cahokia—which led 36–20—score if Cahokia would let Haasis complete a pass to give him the mark. Haasis knew about the plan, but two days later upon reflection, he wrote to the commissioner of the Central State Eight conference, asking that the completion not count. "I didn't feel right," says Haasis, who has gotten letters from across the U.S. supporting his decision. "I wanted the record, but I didn't want it in the way I got it. So in that sense it wasn't a hard decision at all." Conference officials were to meet this week to rule on his request.

Announced His intention to sign Sweden's Hanna Ljungberg as the first woman to play in a men's pro soccer league, Luciano Gaucci, president of Italian Serie A club Perugia. A 5′ 3″, 128-pound striker, Ljungberg, 24, has 51 goals in 95 games for Sweden including three goals in six games at the 2003 Women's World Cup. Gaucci, who signed Libyan leader Mu'ammar Gadhafi's son, Saadi, last summer, said he would try to land Ljungberg this week. "We are in 2003," he said. "Men go to discotheques and go naked on the beach. I can't see why there would be a problem having a woman on the team."

BECKHAM'S WORLD

WE'RE JUST LIVING IN IT

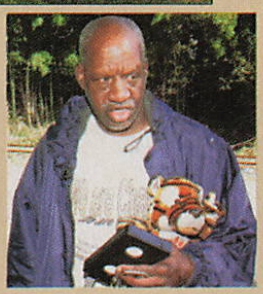
As papers across the U.K. and the Continent were pleased to report, Becks got the bill for the first 80 days of his stay at the five-star Santo Mauro hotel in Madrid, where he, Posh and their two kids are living in a suite until they find a house. The damage: $732,000, including $92,000 for food and $125,000 for valet parking for his five cars. Meanwhile Turkish star Alpay remains jobless for the crime of dissing Beckham. Aston Villa, Alpay's English team, released him after he taunted Becks for missing a penalty kick in last month's England-Turkey game—leading outraged Aston fans to hang an effigy of Alpay. Club chairman Doug Ellis said life in England, "would have been . . . increasingly difficult for [Alpay] and his family."

Radio Blaze

Escaped James (Radio) Kennedy, the subject of a 1996 SI story and of the current motion picture *Radio*, from his house at 5:30 a.m. last Saturday as fire engulfed his bedroom. Radio, the mentally challenged 57-year-old who has attended T.L. Hanna High in Anderson, S.C., for nearly 40 years while serving as the football team's assistant coach, trainer, manager, cheerleader and one-man halftime show, awoke before dawn with flames racing up the wall. His shouts awoke his brother and roommate, Cool Rock, who's afflicted with the same mental defect as Radio, along with his older brother and caretaker, Walter, and Walter's wife, Pat. Everyone got out uninjured, but the blaze, believed to have been caused by a faulty breaker box on the wall outside Radio's room, gutted most of the house.

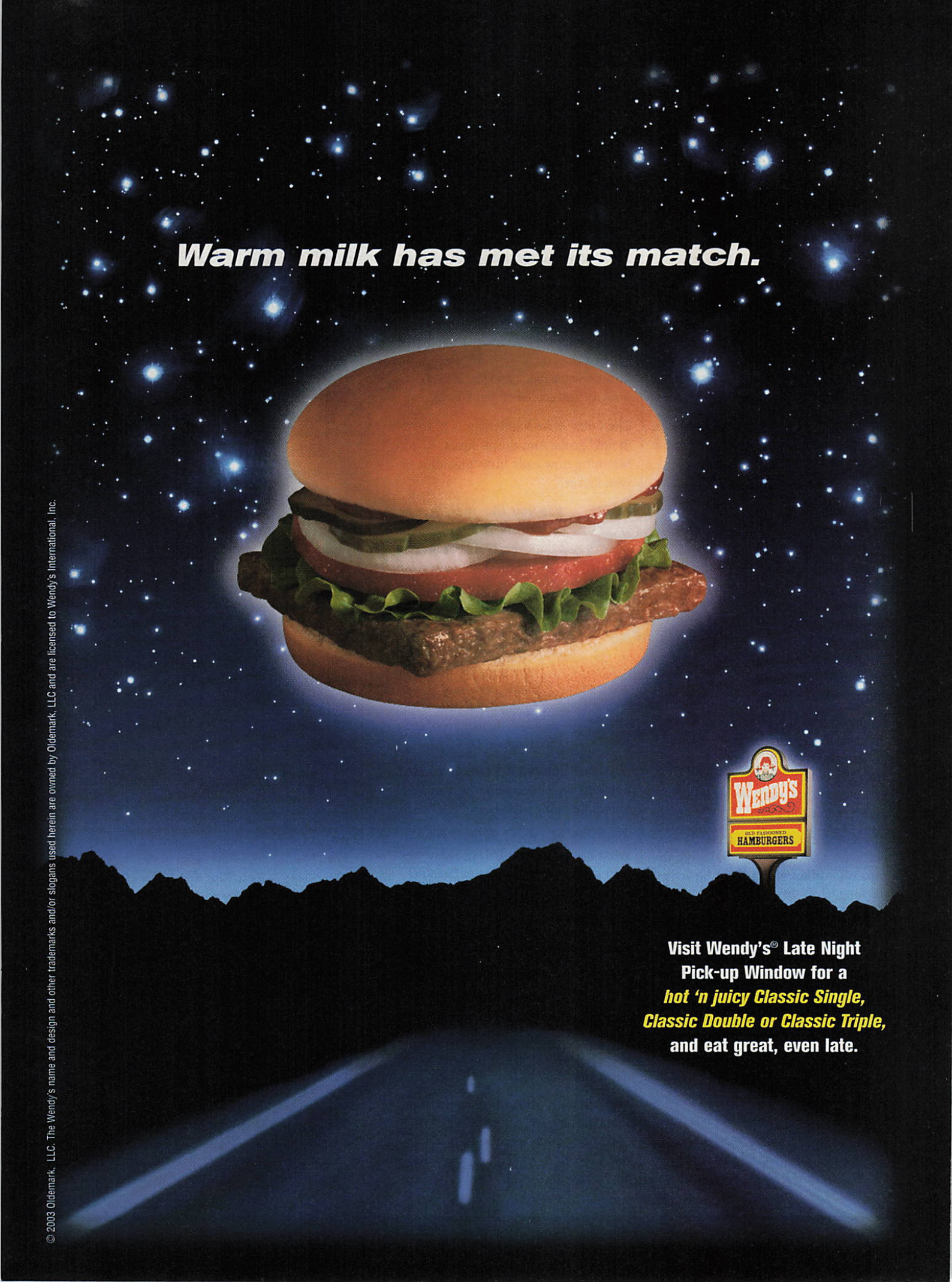
Ten days earlier Radio had stepped out of a limousine in a tuxedo and wept in joy on the red carpet in front of a theater complex in Anderson as hundreds of townspeople chanted his name at the local premiere of his movie—a more rousing reception than even those given to Cuba Gooding Jr. and Ed Harris, the stars who portray Radio and former T.L. Hanna football coach Harold Jones, respectively. On Saturday, Radio sobbed again as the home he has lived in for almost 40 years was destroyed. Lost were souvenirs from the movie, decades' worth of school letters he has earned from the Hanna football, basketball and track teams, and untold numbers of radios, which locals have bequeathed the man who once roamed the town with an old transistor pressed to his ear.

A Radio Fire Relief Fund was set up immediately at the Bank of Anderson, 201 East Greenville Street, Anderson, S.C., 29621, to help the family relocate or build a new home. *—Gary Smith*



CLOSE CALL Flames roasted Radio (below, with salvaged items) from his bed.

DENNIS FUJIMOTO/THE GARDEN ISLAND/AP (HAMILTON); SHAUN BOTTERILL/GETTY IMAGES (BECKHAM); WILL CHANDLER/ANDERSON INDEPENDENT-MAIL/AP (HOUSE); PAUL BROWN (RADIO); COLUMBIA PICTURES (MOVIE POSTER)



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THE SHOW | BY BILL SCHEFT

Good to be back. I was at Brian Billick's yard sale. Got two VCRs for a buck.

SHAQ SAYS FEUD WITH KOBE IS OVER It must be. The other day at a shoot-around, Shaq was wearing an eight-carat diamond.

Speaking of the Lakers, technically, shouldn't Karl Malone now be known as the Subpoena Man?

David Stern begins his 20th season as NBA commissioner . . . and his eighth year knowing a posse is not a bunch of guys on horses.

And Scottie Pippen is back with the Bulls. However, he will still be available to the Blazers as a character witness.

MARLINS RE-SIGN JACK McKEON And thanks to Medicare, it was only an $8 copay.

The Marlins and Miami–Dade County have approved plans to fund a new ballpark that would open in 2007. Wow. That gives them less than three years to gut and rebuild the team.

If the new ballpark is built, the team promises to change its name to the Miami Marlins. O.K., but if you really want to draw some crowds, how about changing the name to Phish?

Elsewhere, the Red Sox' recently fired manager, Grady Little, is enjoying the time off. Although last night he waited too long to get take-out food.

Boston's Manny Ramirez made it through irrevocable waivers unclaimed. Now the only way the Red Sox can get rid of him is if they trade him and agree to assume 80% of his attitude.

FOUR OF TOP 10 FALL Help me out here. Does that make next week Superfluous Saturday?

Virginia Tech upset undefeated Miami. Costly loss for the Hurricanes. They have to pay the Hokies' ACC entry fee.

Boston College president William Leahy says his school is moving to the ACC "because of academics and finances, as well as athletics." And Miami is moving there for all those reasons, plus the more lenient judges.

Michigan RB Chris Perry set a school record with 51 carries in the Wolverines' 27–20 win over Michigan State. All right, who's letting Bo Schembechler call plays?

GIANTS EDGE JETS IN OT First, the Jets were sloppy and turned the ball over. Then the Giants blew a 14-point lead and missed a field goal early in overtime. Fans at the Meadowlands didn't know who to boo . . . until they all settled on Jeff Weaver.

The Colts' Mike Vanderjagt is 21 for 21 in field goals. And this is sweet. Peyton Manning now calls him "our idiot savant kicker."

Are you like me? Do you think that Broncos coach Mike Shanahan is a day away from making a "name your price" call to Bubby Brister?

Corey Dillon missed the Bengals' win over the Seahawks after getting in a car accident. And now he's demanding the car be traded to Dallas.

FDA CLASSIFIES THG AS ILLEGAL STEROID So, once again, the only legal muscle-building supplement is spinach.

THG is known as a "designer steroid." What does that mean? It overdevelops your delts, pecs and sense of fashion?

You spend hours in the gym—trying to accessorize?

You get acne in the shape of the Polo guy?

U.S. SENATORS DISCUSS ELIMINATING BCS Of course the French want to wait until the U.N. inspectors are finished.

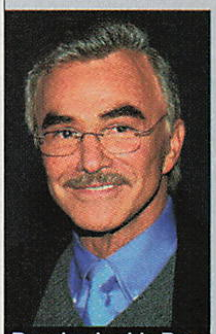
P. DIDDY COMPLETES NEW YORK CITY MARATHON IN 4:14:54 Unfortunately, the remix runs 5:07:23.

My time is up. You've been great. Enjoy King Harvest.

Bill Scheft is the head monologue writer for the Late Show with David Letterman.

Q+A BURT REYNOLDS

The 67-year-old screen legend, a Florida State running back in the 1950s, is the new host of ESPN Classic's *Reel Classics.*


Bowden buddy Burt

SI: *Your college football career ended after two seasons when you injured your knee. How good could you have been?*
Reynolds: I get greater each time we have a reunion. Lee Corso [who roomed with Reynolds at FSU] and I get together and talk about this run I made against Auburn that was around 55 or 60 yards [actually 54]. Now it's a 125-yard run and I get tackled in the parking lot next to the orange juice stand.

SI: *You've done many sports movies, among them* Semi-Tough (SI cover, page 97), Stroker Ace *and* The Longest Yard. *Which was most fun?*
Reynolds: *The Longest Yard.* Nobody had a clue if it would work. I went to a preview, and people were screaming and yelling and ripping seats out. Movies are supposed to take you on an emotional ride, and it was the first time I'd been in one that did, other than maybe *Deliverance.*

SI: *What appeals to you about the ESPN Classic gig?*
Reynolds: Talking about actors who can act and catch a ball at the same time.

SI: *You called Florida State coach Bobby Bowden "the brother I never had." How long do you think he'll coach?*
Reynolds: If he has a big winning season, I wouldn't be surprised if he just moved on or became athletic director.

SI: *Are athletes easy to work with in film?*
Reynolds: The easiest people for me to direct are jocks because they have been directed since the age of nine—Joe Klecko was wonderful in *Smokey and the Bandit II.* I'm never surprised by it. This ain't the Super Bowl. Just look me in the eyes and don't trip over the furniture, as Spencer Tracy said.

SI: *Is there any role in a sports movie that you wish you had played?*
Reynolds: I would love to have had a shot at *North Dallas Forty*, but believe me, I would not have been as good as my friend Nick Nolte. There are still some parts around for old coaches that I might get offered.

SI: *You're one of the most famous people in Florida. Can you promise that you will not run for governor?*
Reynolds: Without a doubt. I don't have skeletons in my closet. I have bodies. —*Richard Deitsch*

For more from Burt Reynolds, go to si.com/siexclusive

ILLUSTRATION BY JEFF WONG; FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES (REYNOLDS)

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Pictured: ColdGear™ Mock Turtleneck (0012). ©2003 UNDER ARMOUR® Performance Apparel.
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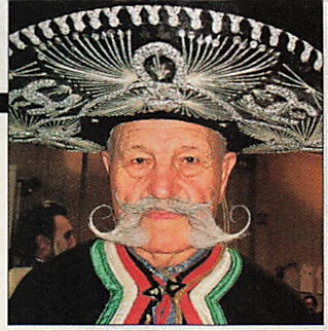
SPORTS BEAT

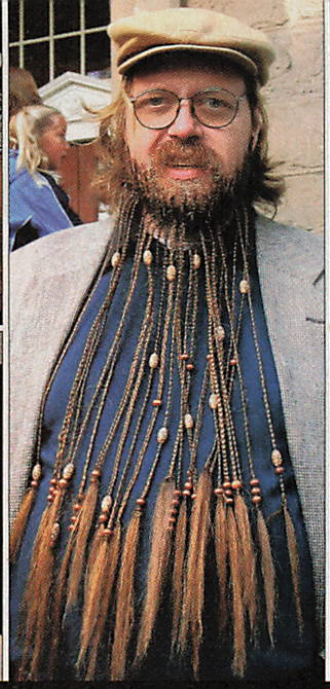
SOME EVENTS just sound fun—like, say, the Goldschlager Bar Olympics, in which good-looking women travel from town to town beating the locals at pool and darts. (Chugging the titular cinnamon schnapps liqueur is not an event, at least not officially.) The Goldschlager Ä Team's "captain" is **Jenny McCarthy**—the former *Playboy* centerfold and star of *Scary Movie 3*—but the real competitors are **Jennifer Barretta** *(below, left)*, a professional pool player who took up the sport four years ago because, she says, "I don't have to break any bones and I can be good at it," and **Christine Nguyen** *(right)*, a darts player and model. Players who beat an Ä Team member during competition (which began in New York City on Oct. 23 and will go to five other cities) qualify to win a trip to the finals in Las Vegas next summer.

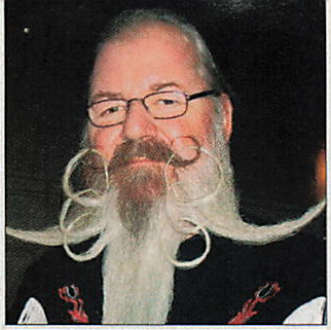
Studying for the bar

■ The Chiefs' record-breaking return specialist **Dante Hall** was funny and engaging in his appearance on the *Late Show with David Letterman* last Thursday—at one point he said he felt selfish appearing without his blockers. (Letterman tried to put him at ease: "**Coach Vermeil** called today and said those guys are mostly dead weight.") When asked if he considered himself an MVP candidate, Hall said, "I don't think I play enough snaps. . . . I would vote for **Steve McNair**." The show closed with Hall, 25, deftly fielding a football shot high off the roof of the Ed Sullivan Theater with a Jugs machine.

■ Wearing bib number 30,792 and an I ❤ NEW YORK breathe-right strip, P. Diddy finished his much-celebrated New York City Marathon run in 4:14:54, 11,337th out of 34,662 finishers. "Never in my life have I ever experienced anything as crazy as this," said the 33-year-old hip-hop mogul. "I definitely wanted to stop. This is a life-changing experience for me because I did not stop." Celebs like **Jennifer Lopez** helped him raise about $2 million for charity.







PICTURE THIS In what is considered the Super Bowl of not shaving, Germany's Karl Heinz-Hille *(bottom left)* won the sixth World Beard and Mustache Championships in Carson City, Nev. About 150 men—including 80 from the Association of German Beard Clubs—competed in the event, many of whom waxed poetic. Heinz-Hille beat an 83-year-old Englishman by a whisker to win the overall title.

■ ABC has hired **Justin Timberlake** to write music for the network's NBA coverage and to work as a correspondent. TNT hired him last summer, saying he would report on events ranging from basketball to NASCAR—but he has rarely been seen. . . . **Ben Affleck** has signed to play basketball coach **Don Haskins** in *Glory Road*, a movie based on Haskins's 1966 Texas Western (now Texas–El Paso) team. The Miners, who had an all-black starting lineup, beat **Adolph Rupp**'s all-white Kentucky team to win the national championship. Haskins, who is white, said he was "flattered they wanted to do a movie at all," let alone cast Affleck to play him. . . . After the World Series, Marlins pitcher **Carl Pavano** was spotted with *Charmed* and AT&T vixen **Alyssa Milano** in Suede, a New York club owned by a pair of die-hard Yankees fans. Still, the owners sent Pavano's party, which included Series MVP **Josh Beckett**, a magnum of Cristal. . . . Former Sixers president-cum-self-help guru **Pat Croce** is developing a syndicated TV show in which he'll move in with families for a week (after studying videotape of members interacting with each other) and become a kind of on-site **Dr. Phil**. "I help them solve their problems—overweight, injury, lack of motivation," Croce told *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. "Everyone needs a friend. I'm a friend who has connections." . . . She's best known for interviewing girls in bikinis, but **Cindy Taylor** is branching out to guys in chaps. The host of E!'s *Wild On* series will be a chute reporter for OLN's coverage of the Professional Bull Riding finals in Las Vegas this weekend.

THIS WEEK'S SIGN OF THE APOCALYPSE

A Florida rabbi is delivering a public lecture, titled The Curses of the Billygoat and the Bambino: Exploring the Talmudic View on Curses.

« THEY SAID IT SIR RANULPH FIENNES

Fifty-nine-year-old cousin of actors Joseph and Ralph Fiennes, whose New York City Marathon was his seventh marathon in seven days on six continents: "This has been enjoyable throughout except for the bits of running."

GOLDSCHLAGER (Ä TEAM): ROSLAN RAHMAN/AFP/GETTY IMAGES (FIENNES): PAUL HANDLEY/AFP/GETTY IMAGES (MUSTACHES, 5)

Earth Day, every day. From the cleanest car company on the planet.

We love clean air. Coming from a car company, that's never really been an easy claim to prove. Unless, of course, you're Honda.

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Genuine environmental leadership built through decades of concern. It's Honda's labor of love. Clean and simple.

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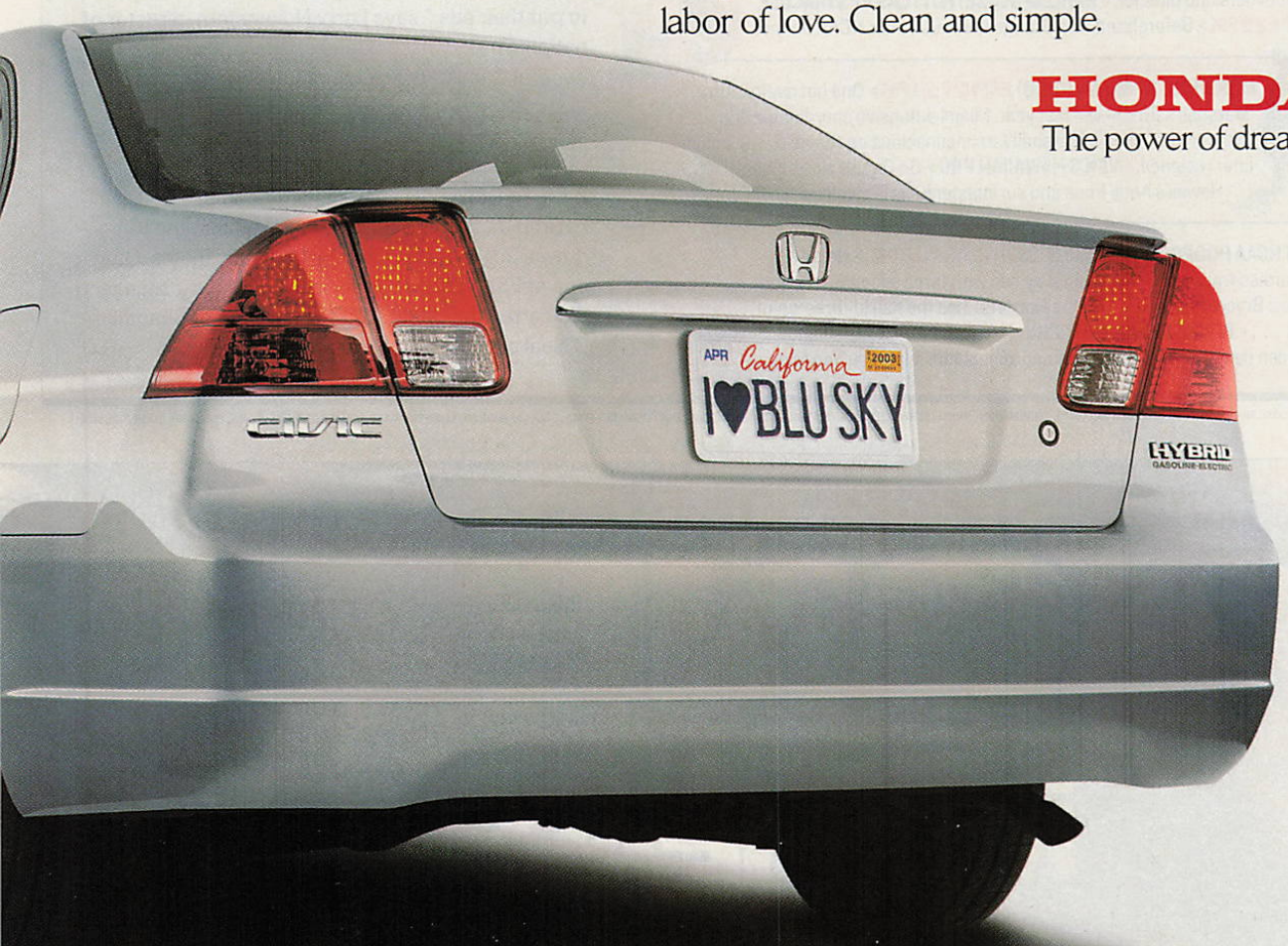


*Based on a U.S. emissions study (2002) by the Union of Concerned Scientists. The Union of Concerned Scientists is an independent organization. Results do not imply endorsement of Honda or its products. †Based on EPA mileage estimates for Civic Hybrid with MT. CA model may get up to 550 miles per tank. Actual mileage may vary. © 2003 American Honda Motor Co., Inc. honda.com

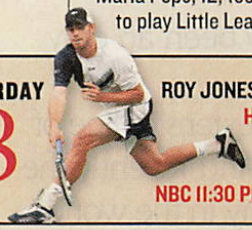
THE WEEK AHEAD

WHAT TO WATCH AND WATCH FOR BY JULIA MORRILL

FRIDAY 7

PBR BUILT FORD TOUGH WORLD FINALS OLN 10 PM > Talk about buns of steel. The world's top bullriders—including circuit leader Chris Shivers—go for a record $2.3 million. • **LITTLE LEAGUERS** > In 1973, a year after Maria Pepe, 12, took the field, a court decision paved the way for girls to play Little League baseball. Today, 140,000 girls are in LLB.

SATURDAY 8



ROY JONES JR. (48–1) VS. ANTONIO TARVER (21–7) HBO PPV 9 PM > Jones, who's been talking about taking on Mike Tyson, is expected to handle the WBC and IBF light heavyweight champ. • **SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE NBC 11:30 PM** > U.S. Open tennis champ Andy Roddick hosts.

SUNDAY 9

PGA TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP ABC 2 PM > Either Tiger Woods or Vijay Singh will wrap up the year's earnings title. • **NASCAR POP SECRET MICROWAVE POPCORN 400 TNT 1 PM** > Matt Kenseth, 32, could drive off with the first Winston Cup championship of his career today, at North Carolina Speedway.

MONDAY 10

WTA TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS IN LOS ANGELES ESPN2 10 PM > Belgium's Justine Henin-Hardenne and Kim Clijsters battle for the world's top ranking—as well as for $1 million, the most ever at a women's sporting event. Says Henin-Hardenne of the rivalry: "We have always protected an image of friendship that never existed."

TUESDAY 11

DVD RELEASE: THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF *PUMPING IRON* > In the classic documentary Arnold Schwarzenegger goes for a Mr. Olympia title, sasses Lou Ferrigno and smokes a spliff. Includes a reunion of the film's bodybuilders and director. • **HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS AT SYRACUSE ESPN2 8 PM** > Beforehand, the Orangemen raise their NCAA banner.

WEDNESDAY 12

MARSHALL AT MIAMI (OHIO) ESPN2 7:30 PM > One hot rivalry: After Marshall's 36–34 win last year, Miami defensive coordinator Jon Wauford knocked a Marshall fan unconscious on the field. The coach later resigned. • **VAN'S HAWAIIAN PRO** > On Oahu's North Shore, Hawaii's Andy Irons and surfmaster Kelly Slater lead the field.

THURSDAY 13

1998 NCAA HOOPS TOURNAMENT ESPN CLASSIC 9 PM > No. 14 Valparaiso trails No. 3 Mississippi by two with three seconds left, and Valpo's Bryce Drew (now with the Hornets) has the ball in three-point land. . . . • **ROCKETS AT MAVERICKS TNT 7:30 PM** > Texas shootout between new Mav Antoine Walker and sophomore superstar Yao Ming.

UNDER REVIEW

▸ **BETTOR TV** Are Americans ready for a 24-hour channel devoted to gambling? The founders of Casino and Gaming Television are betting on it and aiming to be in a million homes next year, 20 million by 2008. CGTV will cover sports through the lens of would-be bettors but won't accept wagers. Will the channel encourage gambling? "We don't feel we're creating this colossal demand for gaming. That demand exists," says CGTV president Nick Rhodes, who was part of the team that built Speed Channel and the Outdoor Life Network. CGTV cofounders Robert Carlsson and David Hawk, both investment bankers, were inspired by the popularity of poker shows such as the Travel Channel's *World Poker Tour* and by the more than 50 million Americans who gambled in casinos last year. Rhodes says CGTV is positioning itself as a gaming "lifestyle network." In addition to analysis of sporting events, shows will include *Winning Hand*, in which poker experts give tips, and *Dusk 'til Dawn*, which takes viewers on a tour of Las Vegas, Monaco and other gambling spots. "Our intent is to become the single source for the fantasy and sports gamer," says Rhodes. The biggest hurdle may be persuading advertisers to roll the dice. "I don't think it's the environment in which most advertisers want to put their ads," says Larry Novenstern, director of national broadcast at Deutsch Inc. ad agency. A hopeful Carlsson disagrees. "Even NBC has a Las Vegas show," he says, "[Gaming] has become mainstream. It isn't taboo anymore."

▸ **LIFT FROM LEBRON** ESPN's opening game, LeBron James and the Cavaliers against the Kings, drew a 2.8 rating, or 2.49 million households. Only one of ESPN's 69 regular-season games last season did better: the Jan. 17, 2003, matchup of Shaquille O'Neal and Yao Ming, which got a 3.8. —R.D.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ANDY WATSON/PBR (BULLRIDER); JOHN CORDES/ICON SMI (CAR); WARNER HOME VIDEO (SCHWARZENEGGER'S ARM); ROCKY WIDNER/NBAE/GETTY IMAGES (YAO); STAN LIU/ICON/SMI (SURFER); MARC GARANGER/CORBIS (FLAG); CHUCK SOLOMON (RODDICK)

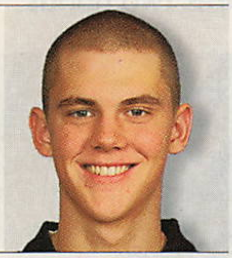
The seed bag is not broke; do not fix the seed bag.

Few innovations aid the man who would walk the Higher Path. The mechanical grass-seed spreader, for example, requires two hands to operate. How does this improve upon the ancient seed bag? It does not improve. Advantage: High Life.

Faces in the Crowd

Graham Harrell, ENNIS, TEXAS
Football
Graham, a senior quarterback at Ennis High, set a Texas schoolboy record for touchdown passes, with 152. This season he has 231 completions for 3,437 yards and 52 touchdowns while leading the Lions to a 9–0 record. He plans to attend Texas Tech.

Caitlin O'Keefe, TROY, MICH.
Tennis
Caitlin, a senior at Troy High, won her third straight Division I singles championship and led the Colts to their first state team title as they defeated Midland Dow in the final. She won 80 consecutive matches and had a 136–2 career record.

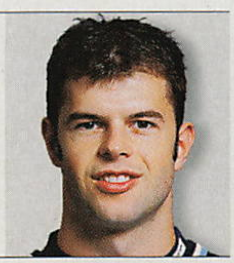


Kevin Zurowski, HUNTSVILLE, ALA.
Bowling
Kevin, a junior at Grissom High, rolled back-to-back 300 games (the first perfect games he has ever bowled) in sanctioned league play at the Monarch Lanes. His three-game, 833 series, including 29 consecutive strikes, is an Alabama youth record.

Vanessa Lucero, LAS VEGAS, N.MEX.
Football
Vanessa, a freshman tailback at West Las Vegas High, scored what is believed to be the first touchdown by a New Mexico high school girl, in the first quarter against Pojoaque High on Oct. 11. At halftime she was crowned freshman homecoming princess.

James Findlay, GREENWICH, CONN.
Clay Pigeon Shooting
James, a junior at Brunswick School, shot 24 straight clay pigeons to win the British Cadet Clay Pigeon Championship in Bisley, England. His father, David, won the same event in 1975; they are the first father-son duo to take the title.

Carly Truitt, MARYSVILLE, OHIO
Golf
Carly, a junior at Marysville High, won the second hole of a sudden-death playoff at Ohio State's Gray Course to become the state girls' high school champion for the second year in a row. She won 21 of the 23 high school matches she entered this year.



Todd Jackson, CORTLAND, N.Y.
Ice Hockey
Jackson, a senior left wing at Maine, led the Black Bears to victory in the Maverick Stampede in Omaha, scoring a total of four goals in wins over Minnesota, the NCAA Division I national champion, and Wisconsin. He was the tournament MVP.

SI.com *To submit a candidate for Faces in the Crowd, go to* **SI.com/faces.**

TRIVIAL MATTERS
BY DAVID SABINO

Incoming Class

Draft Dodgers At the start of the NBA season, each of the 29 teams had at least one rookie on their 15-man roster. Many of those rookies were never drafted. Who was the last NBA rookie to average at least 10 points per game despite not being selected in the draft?

a. J.R. Bremer
b. Brad Miller
c. Erick Strickland
d. David Wesley

Cutting Class Last season's Rookie of the Year winner was Suns forward Amare Stoudemire, who jumped straight from high school to the NBA and averaged 14.2 points and 7.8 rebounds. Who was the last former *college* player to win the award?

This Week's Matchup Match the current rookie with his native country.

1. Boris Diaw, Hawks
2. Ndudi Ebi, Timberwolves
3. Francisco Elson, Nuggets
4. Maciej Lampe, Knicks

a. France
b. the Netherlands
c. Poland
d. England

Call to Order LeBron James scored 25 points in his NBA debut last week against the Kings. Place these players in order of their highest-scoring games during their rookie seasons.

a. Vince Carter
b. Allen Iverson
c. Jamal Mashburn
d. Jerry Stackhouse

ANSWERS
DRAFT DODGERS: c. Guard Erick Strickland, now of the Bucks, went undrafted out of Nebraska in 1996. After starting the season in the CBA, Strickland finished 1996–97 averaging 10.6 points in 28 games as a rookie with the Mavericks.
CUTTING CLASS: Forward Mike Miller, then of the Magic and now of the Grizzlies, was the 2001 NBA Rookie of the Year after leaving the University of Florida following his sophomore year. Miller's current teammate, Spain's Pau Gasol, won the 2002 award with the Grizzlies.
THIS WEEK'S MATCHUP: 1. a; 2. d; 3. b; 4. c
CALL TO ORDER: Iverson (50 points); Mashburn (37); Stackhouse (34); Carter (32)

FROM TOP: JIM MIDGETT; D.C. GOINGS; MONICA MARTIN; OLIVER ABEYTA/LINDA VISTA PHOTOGRAPHY; JIM LUZZI; JAY LAPRETE; UNIVERSITY OF MAINE

In his pursuit of a Master's Degree in Theological Studies from Berkeley, Vince Patton could surround himself in the comforts of the library, the classroom, or the chapel. But true to the values he attempts to instill in his own students, Vince spends six weeks a year volunteering in a small village in Haiti, where he labors in conditions far less plush than he finds on campus in order to provide food, clothing, and medicine to poor villagers. For as Vince learned during his 30 years in the Coast Guard, values aren't what you get out of an experience, they're what you put in.

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

– VINCE PATTON
U.S. COAST GUARD 1972-2002

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Eight Is ENOUGH

In small towns across the prairie, there's no bigger event than EIGHT-MAN FOOTBALL

BY JOHN GARRITY

THE FOOTBALL FIELD at Hanston High is beautiful at sunset. It's out on the prairie in southwest Kansas, surrounded by wheat fields and small-town dreams. In the sun's dying rays the redbrick gymnasium, the water tower behind the school, and the nearby grain elevators all glow from the same palette. ¶ Jerry Slaton, coach of the school's eight-man football team, has seen a lot of those sunsets. He drove into Hanston for the first time in 1976, and if he had blinked, he might have missed it. ("I knew it was gonna be a docile town," he says, "because I seen a dog chasin' a cat, and they were both walkin'.") A two-man blocking sled, four tackling dummies and the prairie are pretty much the extent of his program's fixed assets. His school has an enrollment of 65, and his team rarely has more than 25 players, from freshman to senior. Fourteen junior-high boys practiced with last year's team, but at about 90 pounds each, they didn't see game action. "Four of 'em all together," Slaton cracks, "wouldn't make a human being."

TOWN TOPIC Love for the eight-man game helps keep Hope alive.

Hanston High, lest you get the wrong idea, is no football backwater. The Elks have won the Kansas Eight-Man Division II championship three times in the last four years, and Slaton has taken his team to the title game seven times since 1990. Kansas eight-man has a mercy rule—at any time after the half, a 45-point lead wins the game. The 2001 Elks were so good that they didn't play a fourth quarter until the title game.

Big-city folks may smirk, but you have to admire a scheme that allows a burg like Hanston—a town so small that there's no room for a speed trap—to fancy itself a football juggernaut. This month Hanston will try to repeat as the champion of Division II, which comprises schools with an enrollment of between 30 and 64 students in grades nine through 11. The title game will be played on Nov. 22 at Russell High, also the site of the final in Division I (schools with an enrollment of between 65 and 95).

Eight-man football is a small-town phenomenon, and Kansas, with scores of tank towns spread across a 410-mile-wide swath of gently rolling hills, is a small-town state. "The center of the eight-man universe is in Hodgeman County in southwest Kansas," brags a Kansan in an Internet posting. "You

This is the 17th in SI's 50th anniversary series on the 50 states. Next week: **Washington**

THE SHORT VERSION Hanston (in black) defeated Hope in last year's Division II title game to win its third championship in four years.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BILL FRAKES

could watch a close game between two crappy teams . . . but unless you watch Jetmore [a Division II power] or Hanston, you won't know what eight-man football at its finest really looks like."

What it really looks like is America. Drive into a Kansas farm town on a fall day, and you'll see lampposts wrapped in gaudy colors, shop windows covered with authorized graffiti (BLACK ATTACK—ORANGE CRUSH!) and pickup trucks decorated like parade floats. "This is our social event of the weekend," says Steve Riedy, athletic director in the central-Kansas town of Hope (pop. 450). "Everybody in town identifies with the high school."

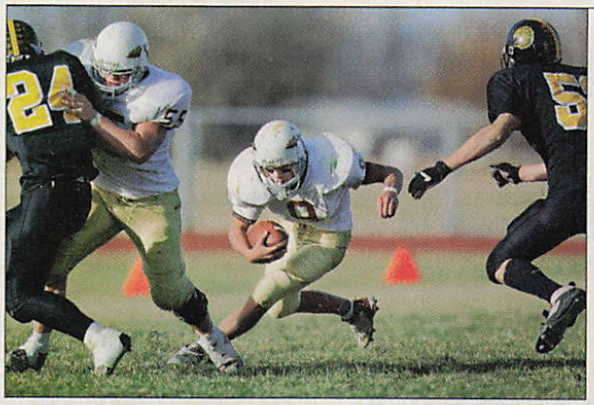
The enrollment at Hope High, grades nine through 12, is 83. In 1982, the last year the school fielded an 11-man team, enrollment had dwindled to the low-50s. Farms were getting bigger. Families were getting smaller. Young people were moving to the cities. "The 1980s were terrible," says Riedy. "We worried about the school's survival." But then a curious thing happened. Struggling merchants and their wives took jobs about 35 miles away, at either the Army base, Fort Riley, or behind the registers at the outlet mall on I-70—but they stayed in Hope. The town refused to die.

Why do people stay? They stay for the sunsets, the sound of crickets in the night . . . and the Hope Lions. Everybody from the shiest first-grader to the grandma in the John Deere cap knows all the cheers—*Lean to the left, lean to the right, stand up, sit down, fight, fight, fight!*—and everyone is schooled in the ritual abuse of the next opponent. ("We're gonna castrate the Elk!" a Hope player shouted at a rally before last year's title game with Hanston. The theme of the rally was "Elk—it's what's for dinner.")

The braggadocio is laughable—everyone in Hope knows their kids would get pounded if they had to play the muscled-up, big-school teams from Wichita, Lawrence or Overland Park—but it satisfies the universal need to aim high. "City people can eat their hearts out," says Hope coach Jeff Hostetter, "because there's nothing like a small town coming together."

Kansas eight-man doesn't look much different from the 11-man game. The field is 80 yards long and 40 yards wide instead of 100 by 53⅓. The ball is kicked off from the 30. There are five players on the line of scrimmage. Any player on the end of the line is an eligible receiver, as are the three backs. The subtraction of six space-hogging players, however, opens up the field and promotes scoring. The most pleasing difference, if you're a football purist, is the absence of specialty players. The quarterback who throws an interception doesn't trot off the field with his head down. He stays on to play defense—no doubt hoping for a crack at the kid who made him look bad. "You have to be a little more well rounded to play eight-man," says Luke Salmans, who played four seasons for Hanston, including as quarterback and linebacker in 2001. "It's gung ho."

"City people can eat their hearts out," says Hope coach Jeff Hostetter, "because there's nothing like a small town coming together."



LIONHEARTED
Hope fans put on a good face, but their team couldn't win the rushing battle.

The rhythms of the season are familiar to anyone who has played high school football. Practice begins in the searing heat of August. Regular-season games start in September and course through Indian summer and winter-wheat planting season until the leaves drop and farms and towns turn as gray as wood ash. The season ends with a four-round tournament: 16 teams battle through bidistrict, regional and substate playoff games to reach the finals. The games, most of them played under lights on weathered fields, create bright patches on the prairie that can be seen for miles.

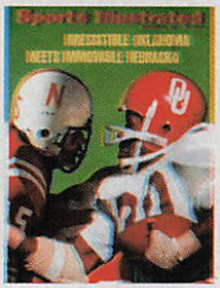
The championship game is the goal. It's played in daylight on a Saturday, like a college football game. There are big aluminum grandstands, a crowded press box, radio commentators, TV cameras—even team nicknames painted in the end zone. "We're good enough to be here," Hostetter tells his frightened players in the locker room before last year's title game in Russell. "I don't care how many games they've won in a row"—he's pacing now—"remember who we are! We can do it!" And then the brutal send-off, almost a taunt: "The next four quarters you're going to have to live with the rest of your lives."

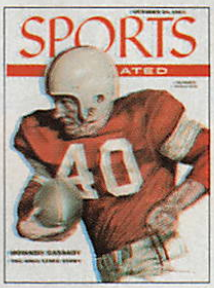
Fear is suddenly their friend. The players yell and slap each other's shoulder pads and run onto the field shouting. The Lions won't prevail against Hanston—the Elks win 38–12 on the strength of a punishing ground game—but they play their hearts out behind quarterback Kyle Goracke, who completes 11 of 16 passes despite a broken finger on his throwing hand. On the field afterward, buffeted by celebrating Elks and mournful Lions, Hanston's Coach Slaton sees nothing but winners. "I like eight-man football because it takes a good old-fashioned American boy and makes him feel good about himself," he says. "Somewhere else he might not even play."

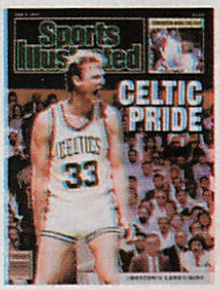
A few hours later a bus and a small caravan of honking cars roll into Hanston and park in the shade of the high school. While the townspeople plan their evening, two players walk over to a chain-link fence, where white Styrofoam cups have been inserted to spell out a message: HARD HABIT TO BREAK 11–0. Adding a few cups, they change 11 to 12.

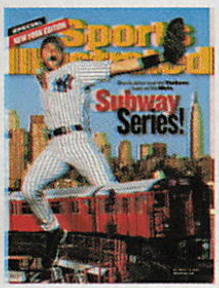
The bottoms of the cups catch the setting sun. □

SI.com *For more about sports in Kansas and the other 49 states, go to* **si.com/50.**









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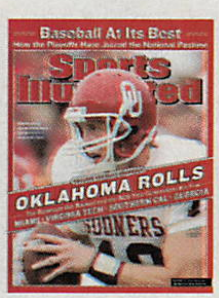

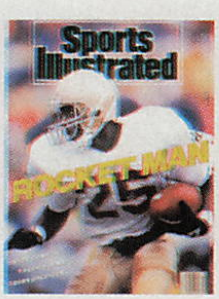

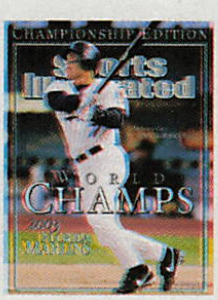

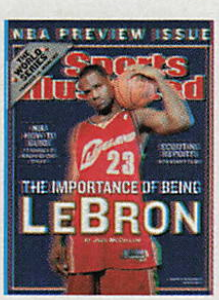

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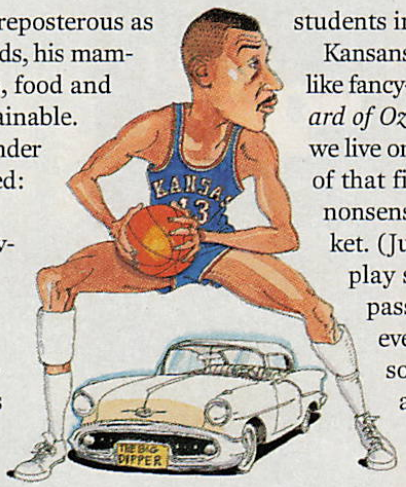
Wilt's World

The legendary Jayhawks center cut a wide swath through Lawrence

BY GRANT WAHL

IT'S A QUESTION no son can feel comfortable asking his mother. *Hey, Mom, when you and Wilt Chamberlain were on campus together at Kansas, did you ever . . . uh . . . hang out?* ¶ To say that Wilt the Stilt was the BMOC, Kansas division, circa 1957, is an epic understatement. He tooled around Lawrence in a white Oldsmobile convertible with the vanity plate BIG DIPPER. He consumed dinner spreads fit for a platoon at Mom's Meals, an eatery on 11th and Vermont, mesmerizing his classmates. And when he scored 52 points against Northwestern in his varsity basketball debut, well, the students stomped their feet and refused to leave Allen Fieldhouse. "We'd never seen anything like him," says my dad, a Mom's Meals regular himself.

The women loved Wilt, of course. As preposterous as his claim of 20,000 female conquests sounds, his mammoth appetites in those days—for points, food and women—made almost anything seem attainable. And while it was probably better not to ponder such things, part of me inevitably wondered: Wilt? Mom?



The thing is, we Kansans can't avoid having intimate relations, literal and otherwise, with Jayhawks basketball. (Not even those tractor-pulling K-Staters, perpetrators of that classy "F--- KU!" chant, are excused.) Blame Doc Naismith, the game's inventor and the first Kansas coach, the only one to have a losing record. (Imagine the static he got on the call-in shows!) Blame Wilt, Clyde Lovellette and Danny Manning, the Holy Trinity of KU greats. And by all means, blame Phog Allen, Larry Brown and Roy Williams, architects of a lore that includes 12 Final Fours and two national titles.

Me, I blame Max Falkenstien the most. As a kid I'd lie in bed listening to Max, the voice of the Jayhawks, whose Brokaw-flat lullabies had the same effect on a 14-year-old as Barry White's baritone would a few years later. Simply put, Max was a sports aphrodisiac—and still is, mind you, at 79, in his 58th straight season, the longest streak of any current basketball announcer, college or pro.

The only thing better than tuning in Max is finding your way inside Allen Fieldhouse. Like a 19th-century Chautauqua, a night in the packed old barn unites Kansans in a timeless scene redolent of buttered popcorn and mindful of populist tradition, whether you're belting out the eerily cool *Rock Chalk* chant, theatrically reading newspapers during the opponents' intros or heaving students into the air to punctuate the *Hey!* song.

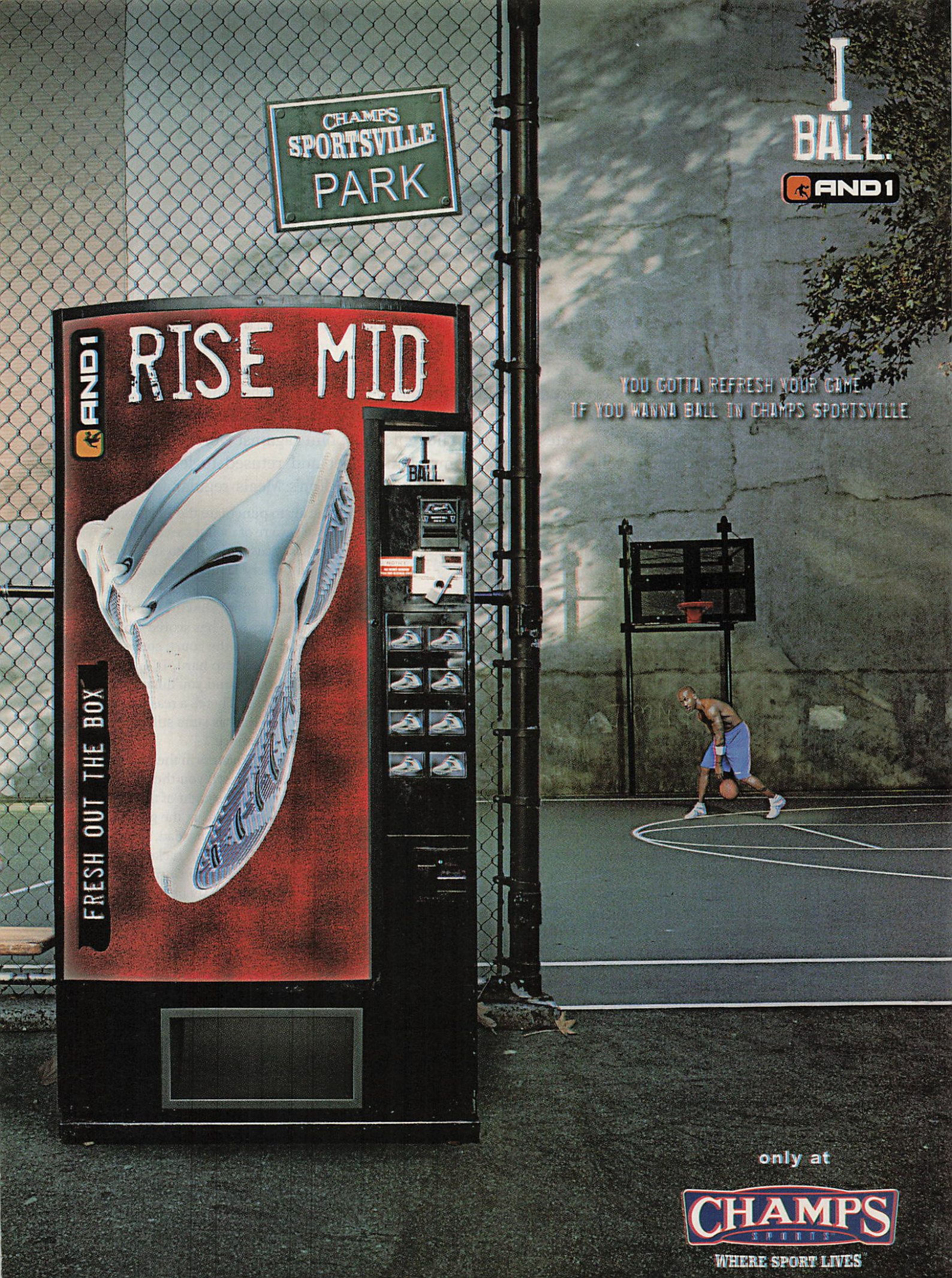
Kansans are well aware of their tastes. We don't like fancy-pants East Coast writers who stuff *Wizard of Oz* jokes into every Jayhawks story, as if we live on some sort of stage set, nor are we fond of that finger-pointin', booty-shakin', taunting nonsense from a player who has scored a basket. (Just run back down the court, son, and play some defense.) Scrap hard, D up and pass the ball, though, and you'll have our everlasting gratitude. There's a reason why so many former Kansas stars still live in and around Lawrence.

See, history matters in these parts. My parents can tell you their exact whereabouts on the night of the 1957 NCAA final. My mom, a grad student, was at the game in Kansas City's Municipal Auditorium, while my dad, a freshman, was right next door at the Music Hall, racked with nerves, fidgeting through a performance of *Carmen*. He couldn't bear to know what was going on, yet he hoped his proximity would somehow bring good karma to the team. (It didn't, of course. In perhaps the greatest college game ever, Wilt's Jayhawks fell to North Carolina in three overtimes.)

Funny how things come full circle. Professional detachment may have thinned my Jayhawks blood—sad to say, I attended college elsewhere—but I finally swallowed my pride and popped the Wilt question to my mom a while back. After a four-decade-long absence, Wilt had returned to a hero's welcome in Lawrence in January 1998. He'd taken the blame for the '57 loss, and it only seemed right that he went to his grave knowing an entire state was still smitten with the Big Dipper. No, he and my sweet mother never hooked up, but that's not the point. The point, as Wilt himself learned that glorious day, is this: Sometimes platonic love can be the best kind. □

SI senior writer Grant Wahl grew up in Mission, Kans.

ILLUSTRATION BY JOE CIARDIELLO


CHAMPS
SPORTSVILLE
PARK
AND1
RISE MID
FRESH OUT THE BOX
I BALL.
I BALL.
AND1
YOU GOTTA REFRESH YOUR GAME
IF YOU WANNA BALL IN CHAMPS SPORTSVILLE
only at
CHAMPS
SPORTS
WHERE SPORT LIVES

The Poll

Kansans weigh in on sports*

Favorite major league baseball team:
Kansas City Royals...56%
New York Yankees.....6%
Atlanta Braves.....5%

Favorite NFL team:
Kansas City Chiefs...55%
Denver Broncos.....6%

Favorite NBA team:
Los Angeles Lakers...10%
Chicago Bulls.....7%
Boston Celtics.....6%
Dallas Mavericks.....6%
No favorite.....46%

Favorite NHL team:
Detroit Red Wings....9%
Colorado Avalanche...7%
No favorite.....64%

Favorite pro team:
Kansas City Chiefs...39%
Kansas City Royals...14%

Favorite college team:
Kansas basketball...37%
Kansas State football...20%

Enthuse-o-meter

On a scale of 1 to 100, how would you rate your state's enthusiasm for sports, relative to other states'?

Rank: 9th of first 17 states polled

Greatest athlete who ever lived in or played for a team in your state:
Wilt Chamberlain.....31%
Gale Sayers.....11%
George Brett.....10%
Barry Sanders.....9%

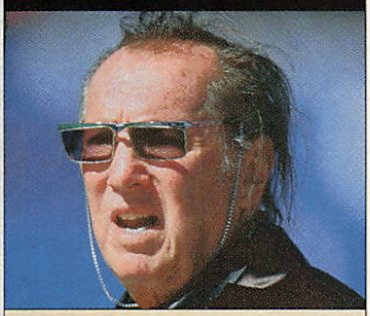
State's biggest rival:
Missouri.....40%
Nebraska.....22%
Oklahoma.....15%

Favorite announcer:
John Madden.....19%
Bob Costas.....7%
Mitch Holthaus.....5%
Max Falkenstien.....5%

Favorite sport to play:
Golf.....18%
Baseball/softball.....12%
Swimming.....12%
Bowling.....10%

Favorite sports to watch on TV†:
Football.....81%
Basketball.....54%
Winter Olympics.....52%

ENEMY OF THE STATE



Al Davis.....16%
Roy Williams.....10%
Bob Stoops.....8%

As Chiefs fans, Kansans harbor no love for the Oakland Raiders—especially team owner Davis. Asked to name their most hated opponent, the poll respondents cited the University of Missouri (25%), the Raiders (21%) and the University of Nebraska (20%).

Harris Interactive poll, conducted online, of 415 Kansas residents who identified themselves as sports fans. Margin of error: +/–5%.
†Multiple responses allowed.

WHO & WHERE

1 Mark Simoneau
The Smith Center native and former standout linebacker at K-State leads the Philadelphia Eagles in tackles.

2 Terence Newman
The cornerback from Salina won the Jim Thorpe Award as a K-State senior and was drafted fifth this year by Dallas.

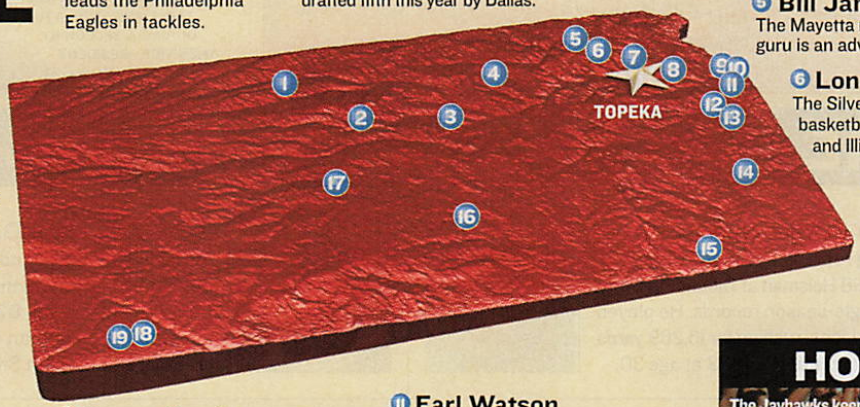
3 Greyhound Hall of Fame
The Abilene attraction celebrates the beginning of greyhound racing in 1886 near Great Bend.

4 Johnny Damon
The Red Sox centerfielder is from Fort Riley.

5 Bill James
The Mayetta native and baseball statistical guru is an adviser to the Boston Red Sox.

6 Lon Kruger
The Silver Lake native and former basketball coach at K-State, Florida and Illinois is now a Knicks assistant.

7 Sports Car Club of America
The racing organization is based in Topeka, where it holds its national finals on a course set up on a runway apron at Forbes Field airport.



8 Allen Fieldhouse
Named for Phog Allen, who coached Kansas basketball for 39 years, the arena in Lawrence is one of the sport's Valhallas and has hosted 37 NCAA tournament games since opening in 1955.

HOT SPOT

9 David Segui
The Orioles' veteran first baseman, a Kansas City native, is the son of former big league pitcher Diego Segui.

10 Kansas Speedway
The 1.5-mile tri-oval just west of Kansas City opened for racing in 2001; Jeff Gordon won its first Winston Cup event.

11 Earl Watson
The Grizzlies' guard from Kansas City holds the UCLA career record for steals.

12 Darren Sproles
Kansas State's star junior running back gained 2,485 yards as a senior at Olathe North High.

13 Blue Valley
This community, which is made up of residents from the B.V. school district, is the state's Sportstown for having the best community sports programs.

14 Bronson
Site of the first men's world horseshoe championship, in 1909.

15 Coffeyville Community College
The three-time national juco football champ Red Ravens have nine alums in the NFL, including Bears defensive tackle Keith Traylor and Rams defensive end Leonard Little.

16 Wichita State
The Shockers, a baseball power, won the 1989 College World Series.

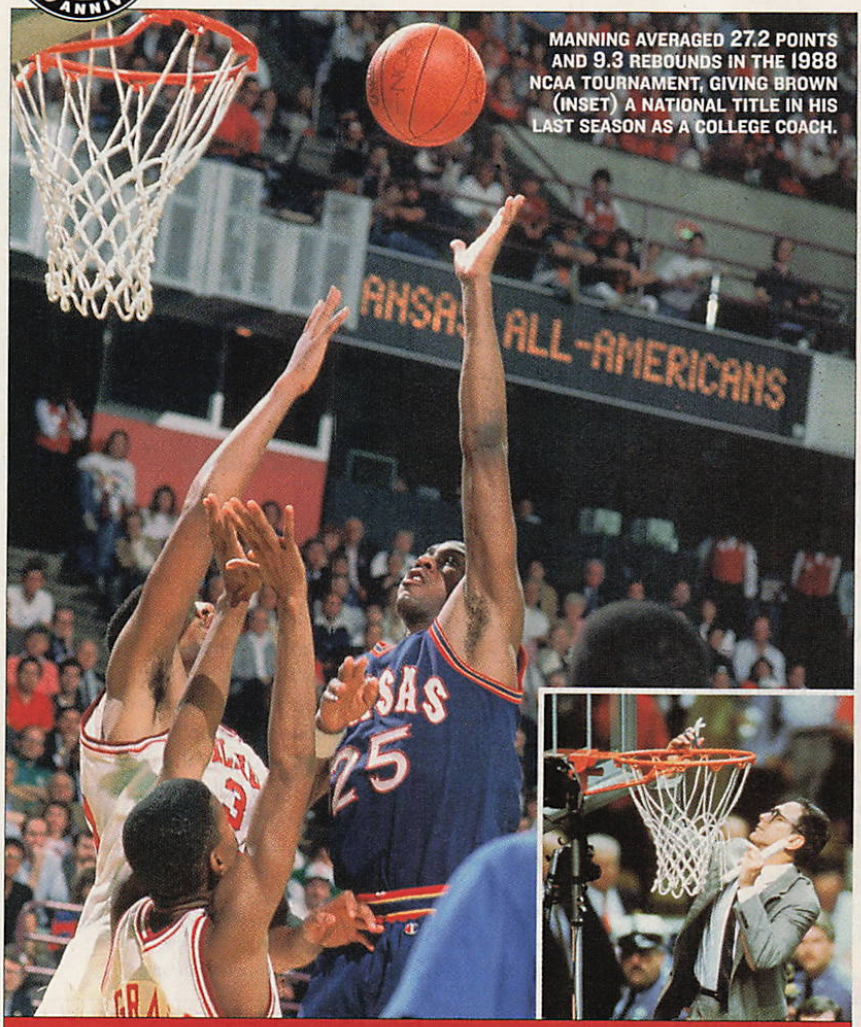
17 Jackie Stiles
The Claflin native was the 2001 WNBA Rookie of the Year with the Portland Fire.

18 Pancake Day
Liberal has a 28–24 record versus Olney, England, in the annual race held the same day in both towns; runners must carry a pancake 415 yards in a skillet, and flip the pancake at the beginning and end.

19 Jerame Tuman
The Steelers' tight end is from Liberal.

SI.com | To read an SI flashback story on Kansas' 1998 college basketball championship, view every Jayhawks cover or vote for the most important figure in Sunflower State hoops history go to si.com/magazine/features/si50/states/kansas.

DAVID BERGMAN (DAVIS); MELISSA LACEY/JOURNAL-WORLD/AP (FANS); MAP ILLUSTRATION BY JOE ZEFF



MANNING AVERAGED 27.2 POINTS AND 9.3 REBOUNDS IN THE 1988 NCAA TOURNAMENT, GIVING BROWN (INSET) A NATIONAL TITLE IN HIS LAST SEASON AS A COLLEGE COACH.

GREATEST MOMENT

In February 1988 Larry Brown's Kansas Jayhawks were only 12–8. But they made the NCAA tournament as a sixth seed with a 21–11 record and got hot, defeating three teams that had beaten them in the regular season. The last of those was Big Eight nemesis Oklahoma, which Kansas dispatched 83–79 in the NCAA final behind Danny Manning's 31 points, 18 rebounds and five steals.

NUMBERS

4, 5 Rank, respectively, of Gale Sayers and John Riggins on the University of Kansas career rushing list, behind Laverne Smith, Tony Sands and June Henley.

10 Minor league championships won by Wichita ball clubs, most recently the Wranglers' 1999 Texas League crown.

65 More football wins by Kansas State in the 1990s (87) than in the '80s (22).

1923 Year when the renowned Kansas Relays track and field meet began.

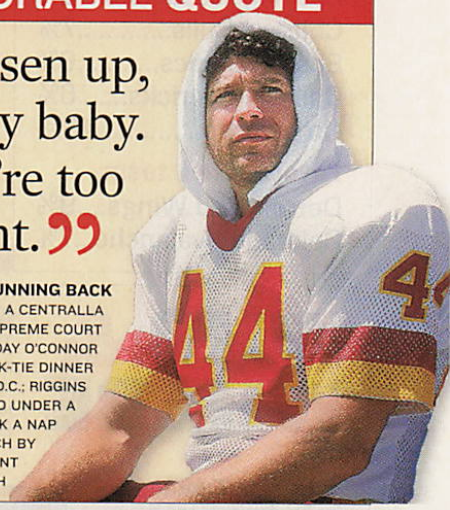
3,371 Points scored by Claflin's Jackie Stiles at Southwest Missouri State from 1997 to 2001, the NCAA women's record.

3,649 Points scored by Wichita's Lynette Woodard at Kansas from 1977 to '81, the pre-NCAA women's record.

MEMORABLE QUOTE

"Loosen up, Sandy baby. You're too tight."

—**REDSKINS RUNNING BACK JOHN RIGGINS**, A CENTRALIA NATIVE, TO SUPREME COURT JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR AT A 1986 BLACK-TIE DINNER IN WASHINGTON, D.C.; RIGGINS THEN CRAWLED UNDER A TABLE AND TOOK A NAP DURING A SPEECH BY THEN VICE PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH



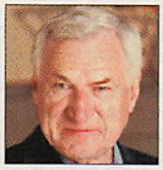
ALLTIME BEST

For Kansas' top 50 homegrown sports figures, go to SI.com/50

Barry Sanders, *Football player*
One of the most dazzling running backs ever, the 5′ 8″ Wichita native won the 1988 Heisman at Oklahoma State after setting 13 NCAA single-season records. He played 10 seasons for the Detroit Lions, rushing for 15,269 yards (third-most alltime) before retiring in 1998 at age 30.

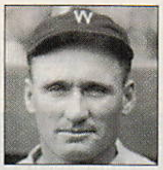
Adolph Rupp, *Basketball coach*
The Halstead native and Phog Allen disciple coached at the University of Kentucky from 1930 to '72, guiding the Wildcats to an 876–190 record, four NCAA championships and an NIT title. He held the career wins mark until Dean Smith eclipsed it in 1997.

Dean Smith, *Basketball coach*
The winningest college hoops coach in history (879 victories), Smith led North Carolina to 23 consecutive NCAA tournament appearances and two national titles (1982 and '93). He grew up in Emporia and won an NCAA title in 1952 as a reserve guard at Kansas.



Jim Ryun, *Middle-distance runner*
The first high schooler to run a sub-four-minute mile, he made the 1964 Olympic team while still at East High in Wichita. The Kansas alum held world records at 880 yards, a mile and 1,500 meters, and won Olympic silver in the 1,500 in '68. He is now a U.S. Congressman.

Walter Johnson, *Baseball player*
The Big Train won 417 games—second on the alltime list to Cy Young—despite pitching for generally mediocre Washington Senators' teams for 21 seasons. Armed with a wicked fastball, the righthander from Humboldt had an ERA of 2.36 and 110 shutouts, the most ever.



Maurice Greene, *Sprinter*
The Kansas City native and Kansas City Kansas Community College alum set the world record in the 100 meters (9.79 seconds) in 1999 and earned two gold medals at the 2000 Olympics, in the 100 and the 4×100 relay. He's also a three-time world champ in the 100.

Compiled by Bill Syken

MANNY MILLAN (MANNING); JOHN W. MCDONOUGH (BROWN); TONY DUFFY/GETTY IMAGES (RIGGINS); DOUG PENSINGER/ALLSPORT/GETTY IMAGES (SANDERS); BILL FRAKES (SMITH); AP (JOHNSON, RUPP, RYUN); CHRISTOPHE BAUDRY/DPPI/ICON SMI (GREENE)

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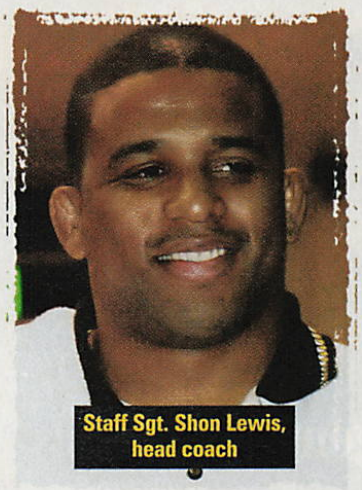
Grappling With Success

WITH ONE OF THE BIGGEST MATCHES OF HER career looming, Pvt. 1st Class Tina George struggled to train in the oppressive Caribbean humidity. Her nerves raced as she pictured revenge-hungry Canadian Tonya Verbeek, whom George had defeated days earlier, awaiting her in the 121-pound freestyle wrestling final at the 2003 Pan Am Games last August in the Dominican Republic.

But just before taking the mat, George's career flashed before her. She pondered months of exhaustive workouts. Had she done everything possible to prepare for this day? Then her thoughts turned to her fellow wrestlers in the Army World Class Athlete Program (WCAP), easing her mind and letting her focus. "When you're nervous, it helps to remember your teammates want you to do well," says George, 25, a carpentry/masonry specialist. "It takes a lot of pressure off, knowing they'll support you no matter what as long as you're giving your best."



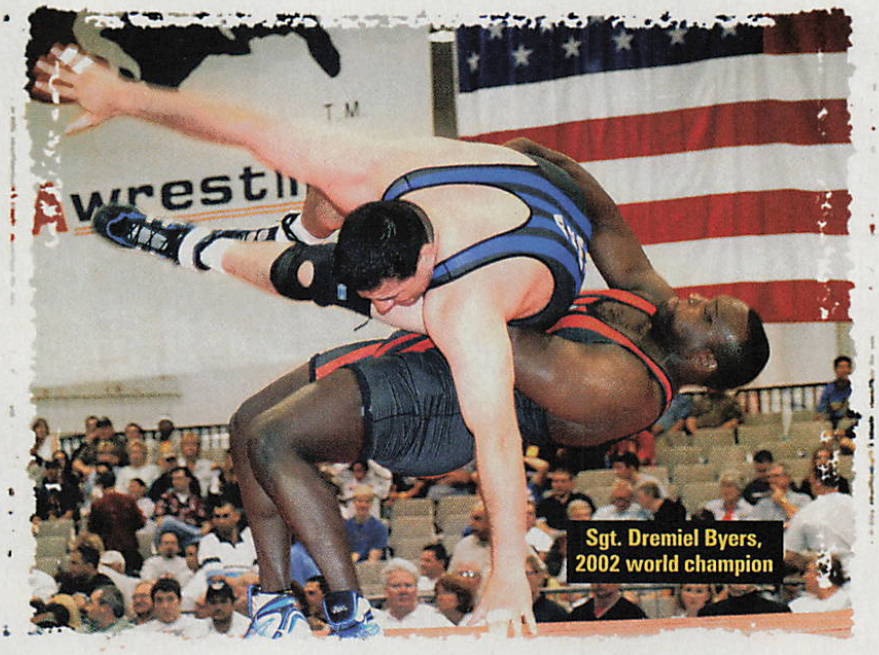
Staff Sgt. Shon Lewis, head coach

Her best was enough to topple Verbeek for her first Pan Am gold. And George added to WCAP wrestling's tradition of winning.

Created in 1996 to place soldiers in the Olympic Games, WCAP wrestling has had at least one national champ every year of its existence. The program boasts the 2002 Army female and male athletes of the year in George and Sgt. Dremiel Byers, and its Greco-Roman wrestlers—the squad's strength—have taken three consecutive team titles at U.S. nationals. "We've had phenomenal success with wrestling," says Paulette Freese, manager of the WCAP. "The wrestlers are down to earth, they're disciplined, clean-cut and very focused."

Staff Sgt. Shon Lewis, himself a former WCAP grappler, coaches 17 athletes in the unit, and at least five have legitimate shots to qualify for the 2004 Summer Games. Lewis, a mechanized infantryman who expects to be a U.S. coach in Athens, leads his soldiers through lifting and sparring workouts five or six days a week at the team's base in Fort Carson, Colo., and the nearby Olympic Training Center. Such dedication makes wrestling WCAP's top program, with athletes who represent Army values: personal courage, loyalty, respect, honor, integrity, duty and selfless service. "It's like a family," George says. "They all embrace you and your dreams."

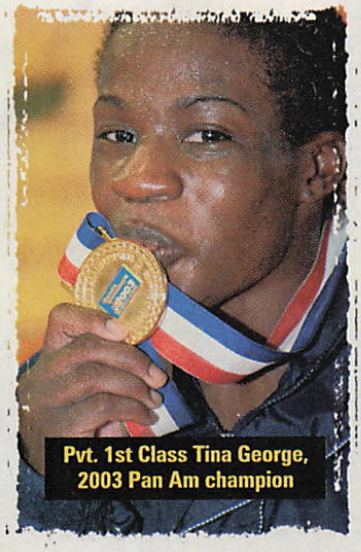
Those dreams center on Olympic glory. George, who wrestled against boys in high school, can become a pioneer for the women's sport as she goes for gold in Athens, where women's freestyle debuts as an Olympic event. "She's the most powerful young lady in that class," Lewis says. "Once she gets her motion going, there's nothing anyone can do, because she's so explosive."



Sgt. Dremiel Byers, 2002 world champion

Last year it was Byers who made history, becoming the first U.S. Armed Forces wrestler to win a world championship. But the 29-year-old Greco-Roman heavyweight missed a chance to defend his title in '03 when he lost to 2000 Olympic gold medalist Rulon Gardner at June's world team trials. Now he's using that defeat as motivation to prepare for a potential rematch at the Olympic trials in May, perhaps with Athens at stake. "It's either train for one guy or train for the world," says Byers, a supply specialist who joined the Army in 1994, transferred to WCAP in '97 and won his first national title in '99. "I'm training for one guy."

Staff Sgt. Glenn Nieradka (Greco, 132 pounds), Sgt. Keith Sieracki (Greco, 163) and 2nd Lt. Dominic Black (freestyle, 213) also have good chances to make the Athens lineup. Sieracki, 32, won a trip to Sydney in 2000, but a legal challenge overturned his Olympic trials triumph and forced a rematch he later lost.



Pvt. 1st Class Tina George, 2003 Pan Am champion

After that heartbreak, Sieracki felt burned out and considered retiring. That's when Lewis and teammates got in his ear. "They said, 'You proved you have the ability to get there. You just need to put it together again,' " says Sieracki, an '02 Pan Am gold medalist. "They made me realize I was wasting a perfect opportunity." Now that's what family's for.—*Jordan Hyman*

TIM HIPPS/USACFSC PUBLIC AFFAIRS (3)

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Sports Illustrated

Trojan FOR

TAILBACK U The Trojans' leading rusher this year as a freshman, White (21) ran for 149 yards and a score against Washington State.

CE

Led by zealous coach Pete Carroll, **USC** is summoning up memories of Pac-10 glory and making an impassioned run at its first outright national title in three decades

BY TIM LAYDEN PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER READ MILLER

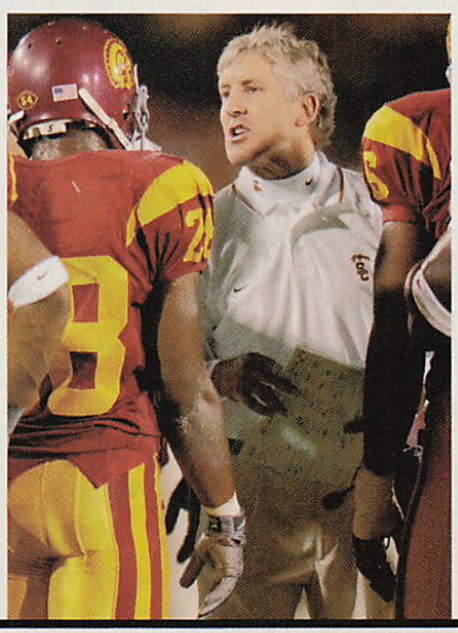
HERE WAS history brought back to life last Saturday night, as a 52-year-old coach who was drummed out of the NFL for having *too much* enthusiasm revived a storied program that had long had too little. Venerable Los Angeles Coliseum was nearly full, awash in cardinal and gold again, rocking under a cloudless sky as USC and third-year coach Pete Carroll imposed themselves on the chaotic national championship race with a 43–16 win over sixth-ranked Washington State. College Football Nation now looks west and computers reboot as the pollsters recalculate the status of an old, familiar name at last back in the mix.

There was a time when cold autumn Saturdays in much of the country were warmed by images beamed from California, as games played in postcard sunshine or warm twilight sent ripples through the national rankings. No Saturday was more memorable than the one in 1974 when USC, led by tailback Anthony Davis, erased a 24–0 deficit and stormed past Notre Dame 55–24, humiliating the Irish in 17 minutes of bloody, captivating theater. From 1972 through '79 the Trojans finished No. 1 or No. 2 five times, ensuring that the Pac-8 (and then the Pac-10, after the league expanded in 1978) always had a voice in deciding the national championship.

But after that there was silence. In the 24 years since USC shared the national championship with Alabama in 1978, the Pac-10 has only won half of another title, in 1991, when Washington split it with Miami. Championships have been sprinkled from Oklahoma and Nebraska to Florida, Florida State and Miami, to Tennessee and Alabama, to Michigan and Ohio State, but the West Coast has been a virtual black hole. Since the formation of the Bowl Championship Series in 1998, only the Pac-10 among the six power conferences has not sent a team to the national title game. The Pac-10 became a late-night novelty, its teams playing high-scoring shootouts and, like cannibals, devouring each other in a stream of upsets that ruined title chances. "Exciting football," says former Arizona coach Dick Tomey, "but no dominant team."

Until Saturday. USC's rout of Washington State—combined with previously unbeaten Miami's 31–7 loss at Virginia Tech *(page 52)*—thrust the 8–1 Trojans into the heart of the BCS madness, a confusing, unpredictable scramble to find an opponent for unbeaten and seemingly unbeatable Oklahoma. This latest shakeup left USC at No. 2 in both the AP poll and the BCS standings—in line for a Sugar Bowl berth. The Trojans' players, under orders from their coach to ignore the possibilities, are seduced by them nonetheless. "I was just thinking," junior defensive tackle Shaun Cody said after Saturday night's win, "it would be nice to test ourselves against somebody from back in the East or the Midwest, if you know what I mean."

"Pete's fun to be around," says Chow. "He created an atmosphere where WE CAN WIN AT A HIGH LEVEL."



RAH ENERGY Carroll's style may not have suited the NFL, but his enthusiasm has revitalized a stagnant USC program.

ROBERT BECK (LEFT); PETER READ MILLER

ON A MIDWEEK evening earlier this season Carroll sat in semidarkness in a meeting room on the second floor of Heritage Hall (where visitors are greeted in the lobby by a display of USC's five Heisman trophies). In Carroll's right hand was a clicker to control the tape of the day's practice, in his left a tankard of Mountain Dew. "Once that kicks in, he's here until everybody else is gone," says Mark Jackson, director of football operations. The office suite buzzed as assistant coaches talked on their phones with blue-chip recruits pledging their services to the rebuilt Trojans. Carroll rose every few minutes to chat up a kid or close an informal deal (recruits can't sign letters of intent until February), and he came back cackling, fueled by caffeine and commitments. "This is what SC can be," he said, "as dominant as parity will allow. Ain't no SCs in the NFL."

Three years ago USC was scarcely a shell of its former self. From 1998 through 2000, under coach Paul Hackett, the Trojans went 19–18, played in one bowl game and failed to finish in the Top 25—the final, embarrassing stage of a two-decade decline. The 2000 team was 5–7 overall and 2–6 in the Pac-10. "The worst team in USC history," says Petros Papadakis, a Trojans tailback that year. He's now a Los Angeles radio host and sideline reporter. "Hackett had no idea what USC football was about." Recruits from the fertile L.A. basin were turning elsewhere. "We were begging players to come here," says Trojans assistant coach Ed Orgeron, a holdover from Hackett's staff.

Athletic director Mike Garrett (the Trojans' first Heisman winner, in 1965) fired Hackett in November 2000. He offered the job to Dennis Erickson, who had won two national titles at Miami before moving on to the Seattle Seahawks and then Oregon State, but Erickson turned it down. Garrett also talked to Oregon coach Mike Bellotti. Weeks passed as what had once been one of the most desirable jobs in football, at any level, sat vacant. Eventually Garrett listened to his assistant Daryl Gross, who had been a scout for the New York Jets when Carroll was an assistant with that team. "Here's what I remember," Gross told Garrett. "People fall asleep in football meetings. Nobody fell asleep in Pete's. He was *alive*."

Carroll's career, however, seemed all but

BOYS GONE WILD Set free in Carroll's defensive scheme, Cody (84) and his fellow linemen harried the Cougars' quarterbacks.

dead. He'd gotten his first NFL job in 1984, at the age of 31, coaching the Buffalo Bills' defensive backs. Over the next 10 years with the Bills, Minnesota Vikings and Jets, he established himself as one of the game's sharpest defensive minds. "The schemes he ran were ahead of most teams'," says Denver Broncos coach Mike Shanahan. When the Jets fired Bruce Coslet after the 1993 season, Carroll replaced him, went 6–10 and was also fired. He then reestablished his credentials in two years as defensive coordinator for the San Francisco 49ers before the New England Patriots hired him to replace Bill Parcells as coach. The Pats went 27–21 in three seasons and twice made the playoffs, but Parcells had taken the team to the Super Bowl in '96, and Carroll's performance didn't measure up. Again he got canned.

Carroll left the NFL with his reputation as a strategist intact—"He taught us a lot about the game, not just defense but offense, too," says Jets linebacker Marvin Jones—but with a damning label: rah-rah guy. "He was very enthusiastic, and his enthusiasm didn't sit well with everybody," says Patriots cornerback Ty Law. "He treated you like a man, and if you couldn't play for Pete, it was more your problem than his. But some guys need to have their job threatened every day."

Even now Carroll bristles at the notion that he was *too college* for professional players. "It's all a matter of control," says Carroll. "If the [front office] gives you control, my style works. I was pissed off that it didn't work, because it should have."

He spent a year doing media work before USC called. At the press conference introducing him as Hackett's successor, he worked the room like a water bug. "I was

HOKIE HEAVEN

Virginia Tech remedied 10 days of hell with one night of glory: by beating Miami

IN FRANK BEAMER'S 23 years of coaching, no stretch was tougher than the last 10 days of October. It started when his third-ranked Virginia Tech team let a potential undefeated season slip away for the fourth time in as many years, losing 28–7 at West Virginia on Oct. 22. Then, having been caught on camera slapping receiver Ernest Wilford on the helmet during the game, Beamer was ashamed and apologized for his uncharacteristic behavior. Finally there was the intense preparation for last Saturday's game against Big East nemesis Miami, which hadn't lost a regular-season game since September 2000 and hadn't been beaten by a conference opponent since November 1999.

"I was embarrassed by the Ernest situation, and I must be taking losses harder than I did when I was younger, because I wasn't sleeping," said Beamer. "It was an awful week."

What a difference beating the Hurricanes can make. By demolishing Miami 31–7, the Hokies moved back into the national title picture, jumping five spots in the AP poll to No. 5 and moving up to No. 6 in the BCS standings. Virginia Tech got back on track by playing Beamer's signature brand of football: opportunistic defense and momentous special teams play. Among the highlights: junior cornerback Eric Green's blocked field goal in the first quarter, junior cornerback DeAngelo Hall's fumble recovery and 28-yard return for a touchdown in the second quarter, and Green's 51-yard interception return for a touchdown in the third quarter. Hall's and Green's scores gave the defense and special teams a combined 10 touchdowns this season, the most in the nation.

Virginia Tech had strayed from Beamerball against West Virginia. The defense allowed tailback Quincy Wilson to rush for 178 yards, and the special teams did nothing special. Before the game, Beamer had noticed a lack of spark in his players, so after bringing them together for an emotional team meeting, during which he apologized to Wilford and challenged the players to reclaim the season, he gave the team two days off. Then preparations for Miami began in earnest. "We have never watched as much tape of ourselves or of our opponent as we did last week," said Green.

Bolstered by an outpouring of support—Beamer received numerous calls last week from colleagues, and the team was met by an especially large throng of cheering fans on its traditional pregame walk from the bus to the locker room—the Hokies took the field with renewed confidence. Green's block 12 minutes into the game set the tone, and Virginia Tech held Miami to its lowest scoring output since October 1997. "We knew that if we played with emotion and got back to good defense and special teams, we could beat anybody in the country," said Green. "It's Virginia Tech's thing." The win was the school's first against a team ranked higher than No. 9.

The game ball could have gone to any number of Hokies, including the ubiquitous Green, who also had 11 tackles; junior tailback Kevin Jones, who ran for 124 yards and a touchdown; or even freshman quarterback Marcus Vick, college football's most scrutinized little brother, who stepped in for a struggling Bryan Randall and tossed a 43-yard scoring strike to Wilford. But the players awarded the ball to Beamer, who, after not having cracked so much as a smile for 10 days, grinned widely. "I've been through a lot here," he said, "but that moment will be my most memorable." *—Kelley King*

BEAMERBALL Michael Crawford's interception led to a Hokies touchdown—one of three resulting from Hurricanes turnovers.

BOB ROSATO

AIR RAID Wideouts Keary Colbert (83) and Mike Williams have a combined 107 catches for 1,558 yards and 16 touchdowns.

ready," he says. During the spring of 2001 he took the entire team to the Coliseum and conducted a tug-of-war in the dark. Early this season he stepped into the role of scout-team quarterback against the goal line defense and hurled himself through the air and over the pile, landing in a heap in the end zone. "Everybody was in shock when he hit the ground," says junior linebacker Matt Grootegoed. "Then we went crazy. You just don't see coaches jumping over a pile of players who are in full pads."

At practice Carroll is more Pied Piper than coach. When team managers blast an air horn to signal the start of the next practice period, Carroll runs to the appointed station, towing half the team behind him and chattering, "Go, go, go! On the hop, on the hop!" As forcefully as he resists the idea, he seems born to coach college players. That energy is also part of the system. Carroll installed the attacking defense he learned in the early 1980s at N.C. State from his mentor, Monte Kiffin, now the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' defensive coordinator. It frees the front four to chase big plays without being constricted by specific assignments. "It's just, 'Go!'," says Cody. "We fly around, chase the ball, pressure the passer. It's the way everybody wants to play on defense." They call themselves The Wild Bunch II, after the original edition on the 1969 team that went 10-0-1. Using just a four-man rush against Washington State, the Trojans had five sacks and continually pressured Cougars quarterback Matt Kegel.

To run his offense, Carroll hired Norm Chow from N.C. State, where Chow had worked for a season after 27 years orchestrating one of the most efficient offenses in college football history, at Brigham Young. It was no small move for Chow, 57. His commute to work in Provo had been five minutes, barely longer in Raleigh. "Here I figure an hour to the grocery store," Chow says of getting around Los Angeles. "But Pete sold me. He's fun to be around. He's convincing. And he created an atmosphere where we can win at a high level." Chow steered quarterback Carson Palmer to the 2002 Heisman Trophy and the top spot in the NFL draft; this year he's guiding sophomore Matt Leinart, whose numbers are significantly better than Palmer's were at the same point. "It's mind-boggling to hear my name mentioned with Carson's," Leinart said last Saturday night, after throwing for 191 yards and three touchdowns.

ROBERT BECK

Says Cody, "It would be nice to TEST OURSELVES against somebody from the East or Midwest."

USC recruits are told that they'll play as soon as they've proved themselves, redshirts be damned. Freshmen tailbacks LenDale White and Reggie Bush have worked their way into a rotation with sophomore Hershel Dennis. Against Washington State, White ran for 149 yards on 12 carries. Another first-year player, wideout Steve Smith, scored a third-quarter touchdown on a 55-yard catch and run while the game was still close. Yet another freshman, Darnell Bing, starts at strong safety and hits like a mini–Ronnie Lott (last Saturday's Homecoming honoree).

Carroll isn't just winning; he's also beating the traditional rap against the Pac-10: that it plays a glorified flag football that doesn't hold up to the power game practiced by more solid teams elsewhere. Carroll's Trojans play aggressive, intimidating defense. In the first game of the season USC stuffed sixth-ranked Auburn 23–0. His practices are short and intense with lots of hitting. If it isn't already, USC will soon be as tough as any team in the country.

A FEW WEEKS ago, after practice was finished, Carroll, who played quarterback in high school, began doing what he does nearly every afternoon: throwing passes. To players. To managers. To anybody who stuck around until the sun sank into the Pacific. At last it was just the coach and his son Brennan, 24, a Trojans assistant. Together they sprinted the length and breadth of the practice fields, heaving bombs and snatching them from the air. "This is what football is all about, just running and throwing and catching," said Pete, sweating through his USC shirt. As long as he coaches in college, the idea that he has one eye on a return to the NFL will forever crop up. He denies it vehemently. "I'm having way too much fun to go back up there," he said. "This is better for me. This is a blast."

Carroll pointed to a huge white plastic hamper near a storage shed, 40 yards across the field. "Watch this," he said, whistling a spiral that smacked against the side of the hamper. Even before the ball hit its target, Carroll was gone, running off the field laughing like a man in the right place at the right time. □

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NEXT STOP: Greatness

Take it from Wayne Gretzky. The player with the best chance to break his scoring records is Sidney Crosby, a 16-year-old center in Quebec juniors

BY MICHAEL FARBER

THIS PRODIGY business isn't fair. Mozart got to play the courts of 18th-century Vienna and Paris and Munich while Sidney Crosby gets the cold arenas of 21st-century Drummondville, Que., and Bathurst, New Brunswick, and Lewiston, Maine. And while Mozart probably never had to carry anything heavier than sheet music, Crosby has to lug his equipment bag full of sweat-soaked gear as he travels the junior hockey hinterland. ¶ You might have heard this said about some other player before, but here goes: Crosby is The Next One. However, you've never heard it from such an authority as The Great One. The 16-year-old center with the tousled black hair and half-smile has been tapped on the shoulder by Wayne Gretzky and told, in effect, Tag! You're it! When asked last summer by *The Arizona Republic* if a player might one day break some of his NHL scoring records, Gretzky said, "Yes, Sidney Crosby. He's the best player I've seen since Mario [Lemieux]." The anointment was stunning, like Jack Nicklaus's declaration that a 20-year-old Tiger Woods would go on to win more Masters than he and Arnold Palmer combined.

"I was honored Wayne said that," says Troy Crosby, Sidney's father. "It's an honor that he even knows who Sidney is."

Although he won't be eligible for the NHL draft until 2005, Crosby has been on the radar in Canada since his formative years in Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia. He was interviewed by a newspaper reporter for the first time at age seven. He was featured on a segment of CBC's *Hockey Day in Canada* when he was 14. Crosby has been playing against older boys since he was six, and on every team at every level he has put up numbers reminiscent of the days when The Great One and Lemieux were playing wild, wide-open hockey as kids.

In 2002–03 he spent his sophomore year at Shattuck–St. Mary's, a prep school in Faribault, Minn., which is to high school hockey what Harvard is to law school. Then, after scoring 72 goals in 57 games, he left to play in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League (QMJHL) and was selected first in the midget draft, by the Rimouski Océanic, in June. The rumors about Crosby's deal spread like crabgrass.

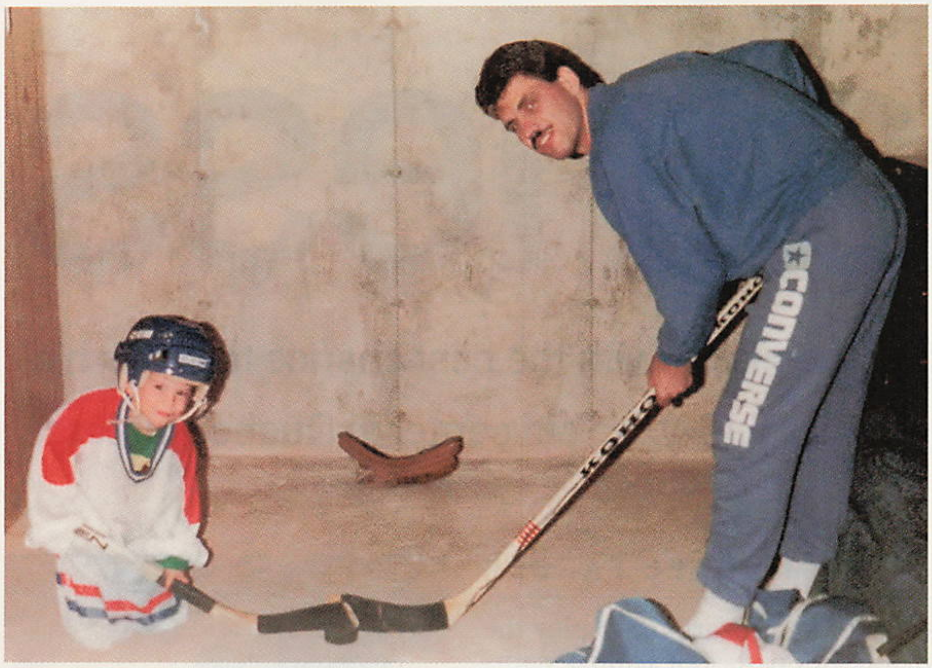
CAN'T-MISS KID Crosby won't be eligible for the NHL draft until 2005, but his arrival has been anticipated in Canada for years.

MAJOR ATTRACTION In his first year with Océanic, Crosby has not only filled the net with pucks but also arenas with fans.

As a 16-year-old rookie he is entitled to the standard $35 per week plus room and board, but there's been a vague whisper that Rimouski is clandestinely paying him $150,000 and has given him an attendance clause in his contract. Troy Crosby and Pat Brisson, Sidney's agent at IMG since June, say they have an agreement with the Océanic that covers the cost of Sidney's college education only if he chooses to go but insist there is no payment and no attendance clause. That is a pity considering that Rimouski, which was an 11-58-3 doormat that played to many half-empty houses last season, has been a big draw in every arena in its first 21 matches through Sunday. On Oct. 16, when Crosby played his first junior game in Nova Scotia, there

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DARREN CARROLL

"I realize a lot of guys have been tagged with that **'NEXT GREAT PLAYER'** thing," says Crosby. "I don't want to be one of the guys who disappears."



DING CROSBY Young Sidney (at 2½ with Dad in the basement) shelled the family dryer; he scrimmaged with Gretzky in '02.

were 10,189 fans at the Metro Centre in Halifax, 4,000 more than usual. The next night a crowd of 4,574 (including about 400 standing-room-only fans) greeted him in Sydney, Nova Scotia.

"I realize a lot of guys have been tagged with that 'next great player' thing," says Crosby, who is 5' 10" and 185 pounds. "Some have gone on to be great players, some have fallen. I don't want to be one of the guys who disappears. I remind myself of that every day. For Wayne to say what he did and sound confident in the words, I'm not disappointed at all. If that's his opinion, why not share it? I'm flattered, but at the same time I have a long way to go."

The burden of being The Next One was a great weight on the last junior player to stir up such a fuss, Eric Lindros. Crosby has been handling it well to this point. He greets the daily interviews with a mix of engagement and caution, always maintaining eye contact and cordially giving answers but not saying much. Crosby knows the drill. He has been schooled by a brief lifetime of watching between-period interviews on *Hockey Night in Canada* and by two media-training classes that IMG arranged for him the last two summers. He always talks about team goals and shared success. He even dresses in a shirt and tie when he goes to the rink because he remembers New York Rangers general manager Glen Sather saying that if you dress well, you play well. In his good-of-the-game manner, he is uncannily like Gretzky, with whom he scrimmaged on the last day of an IMG prospects camp in Los Angeles in the summer of 2002.

In a league in which 19- and 20-year-olds usually dominate and rookies are often grateful for a few shifts a game, Crosby led the QMJHL with 19 goals and 26 assists through Sunday. He had at least one point in all but two of Rimouski's 21 games and had been named the league's offensive player of the week twice. Crosby's on pace to break the league record for most points by a 16-year-old, 125, which was set by Norm Dupont in 1973–74.

If Gretzky got his start on his father Walter's backyard rink, Crosby had Troy's 22-by-15-foot basement floor. Troy painted it white, added a red line and a blue line and a regulation four-by-six-foot net. Sidney, who started skating when he was three, was always first-team all-cellar, too good even for his goalie father, who was a 12th-round draft pick of the Montreal Canadiens in 1984. (He never made it to the NHL.) Troy retired from the home basement games when Sidney was nine, because the boy's slappers were leaving him bruised. "He was killing me," says Troy. "I told him, 'You don't need a goalie, just shoot at the net.' "

Troy, a facilities manager for a law firm, put up extra netting behind the goal to protect the basement appliances, but Sidney's shots that missed to the left kept dinging the dryer, which miraculously still works even though it's streaked with puck marks and all the knobs were knocked off. It looks like a piece of junk, but if Crosby breaks any of Gretzky's records, it will be an heirloom.

Dryers aside, no one in the NHL considers the talk about Crosby hot air. He is shifty, fearless and shockingly strong on his skates, but his top attribute might be a remarkable hockey IQ. Crosby's best play in his Halifax homecoming came not while creating both goals in a 2–1 Rimouski win but by backchecking ferociously to strip a streaking Petr Vrana of the puck in the third period. Crosby, a lefthanded shot, used a maneuver called the can opener on the New Jersey Devils' 2003 second-round draft choice. He stuck his stick under

COURTESY OF THE CROSBY FAMILY (3)

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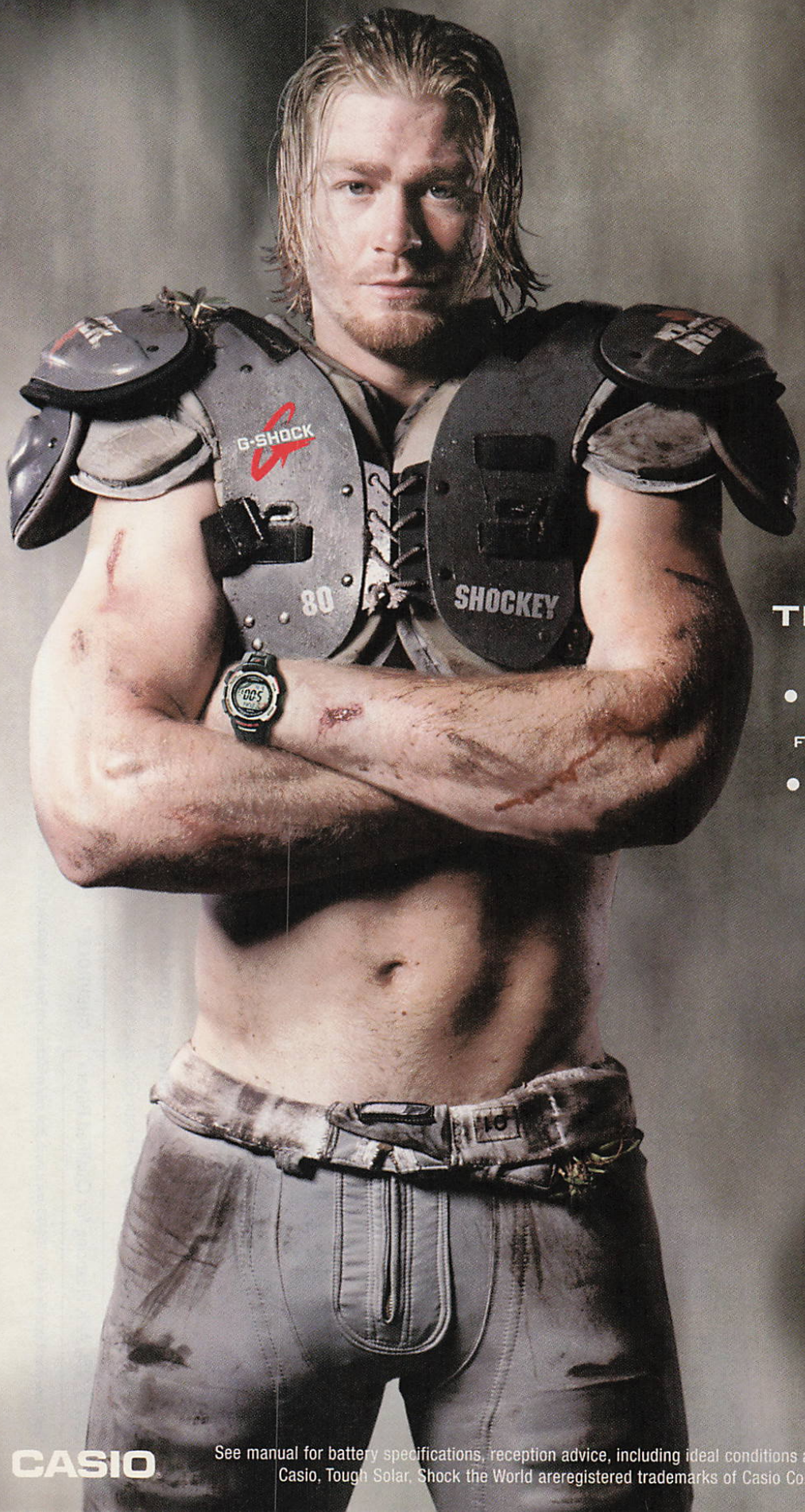

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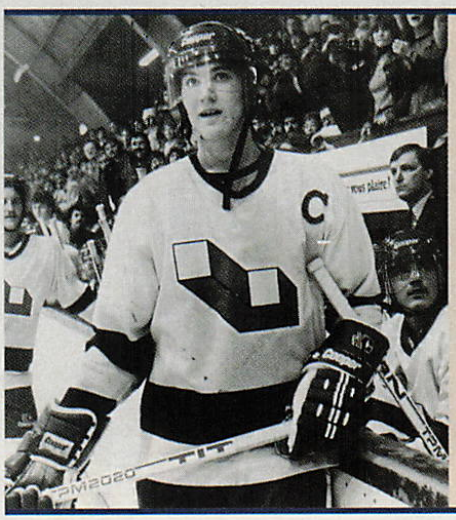

PIERRE COTE/LA PRESSE

Sweetest SIXTEENS

This season Sidney Crosby is on pace to score 150 points, which would be the most by a 16-year-old in the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League's 34-year history. Here is what five notable QMJHL alums, four of whom became NHL Hall of Famers (Vincent Lecavalier is still active), did at the same age.

YEAR	PLAYER, TEAM	GAMES	GOALS	ASSISTS	POINTS
1973–74	**MIKE BOSSY**, *Laval*	68	70	48	118
1977–78	**DENIS SAVARD**, *Montreal*	72	37	79	116
1979–80	**DALE HAWERCHUK**, *Cornwall*	72	37	66	103
< 1981–82	**MARIO LEMIEUX**, *Laval*	64	30	66	96
1996–97	**VINCENT LECAVALIER**, *Rimouski*	64	43	60	103

Vrana's right armpit, then whacked him on the inside of his left elbow, freeing the puck. That would be a big-time NHL play because, other than Peter Forsberg of the Colorado Avalanche, few big-time NHL players do it with such ease.

Less than 48 hours later Crosby opened some more eyes with a five-point game against Acadie-Bathurst. On one play he swerved to the middle in the offensive zone and then 1) faked a pass that induced the defenseman to drop to the ice; 2) slid the puck under the defenseman as that player went down; 3) hurdled the blueliner without breaking stride; 4) regained control of the puck in the slot; and 5) wheeled to his right while snapping a wrist shot for his second goal. The stunned Bathurst crowd of 3,524 went silent. Suddenly, there was the sound of two hands clapping. A few others joined in, and then more. This was no frenzy—just light rhythmic applause from fans who had been struck by the realization that they had witnessed perhaps the most remarkable goal they are likely to see in their lifetime.

"He's a unique player who makes plays at both ends of the rink," says San Jose Sharks director of amateur scouting Tim Burke, who has watched Crosby at least 10 times. "Coming up-ice, most players, even the great ones, try to get to their favorite areas so they can make plays. You usually know where they're going. They're still tough to stop, but at least they're predictable. Crosby isn't. He plays both sides of the rink and is able to feed both sides."

"He's going to be a star," says Edmonton Oilers vice president of hockey operations Kevin Prendergast. "Sometimes he'll make a play and you'll think it's the wrong one, then it strikes you that the guys he's out there with are not thinking on the same high level as he is. We need another Canadian superstar. They're hard to find."

Mark Tobin, a 17-year-old Océanic left wing, began calling him Gretz, but Crosby quickly put a halt to that. Like Gretzky, he does wear an unusual jersey number—87, because his birth date is 8-7-87—but Crosby says with charming conviction, "I am not Gretz." For the moment, however, he does answer to the nickname Darryl. Tobin came up with that moniker during Rimouski's second preseason game, when Crosby had four goals and four assists. The dazzling offensive show did not eclipse Darryl Sittler's NHL-record 10 points in a game, but, as Tobin says, "It was close enough for me.

"He's a rookie, and we give him crap because of that," says Tobin. "But we all know how special he is. We don't come right out and say it, but in our hearts we know one day we'll be telling our grandkids that we played with Sidney Crosby." □

ICE SHOW NHL scouts are raving about Crosby's ability to make plays at both ends and from both sides of the rink.

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THE CHASE IS ON

2,105 Yards

The Ravens' Jamal Lewis, with a new maturity and sense of purpose, is leading the NFL in rushing—and stalking the single-season record

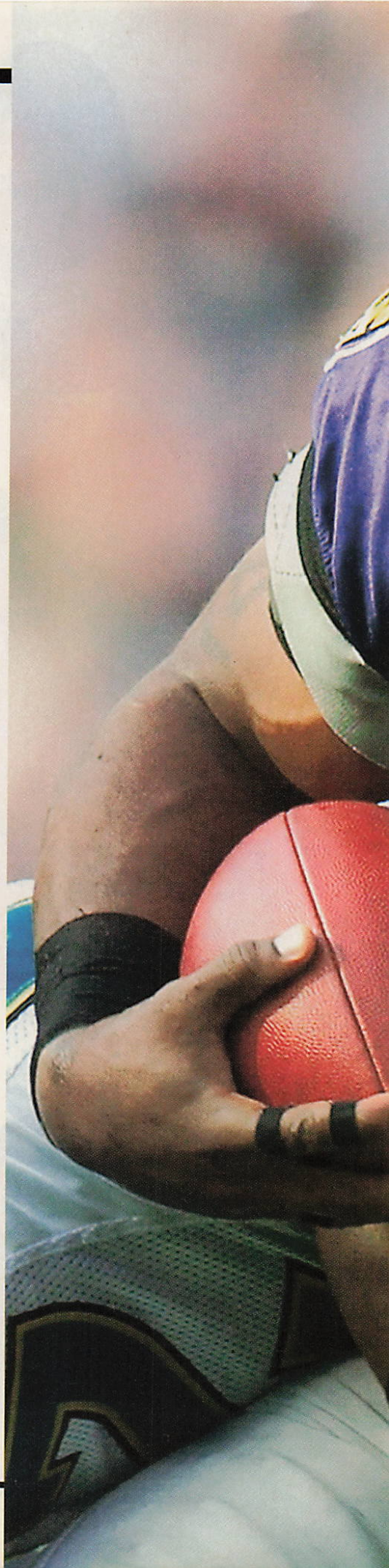
BY JEFFRI CHADIHA

AS DELIRIOUS fans chanted his name and proud teammates offered congratulations on his setting the NFL single-game rushing record, Jamal Lewis listened to a soothing voice with a thick Southern accent on the other end of a phone line. Earnest Byner, the Baltimore Ravens' director of player development, had called down from the coaches' booth in the final minutes of the Ravens' 33–13 victory over the Cleveland Browns on Sept. 14 to help the running back keep his focus as he finished his 295-yard, two-touchdown day. Lewis listened intently, then asked a quick question. "Hey, E.B.," he shouted into the phone. "How does it feel to work with the best back in the league?"

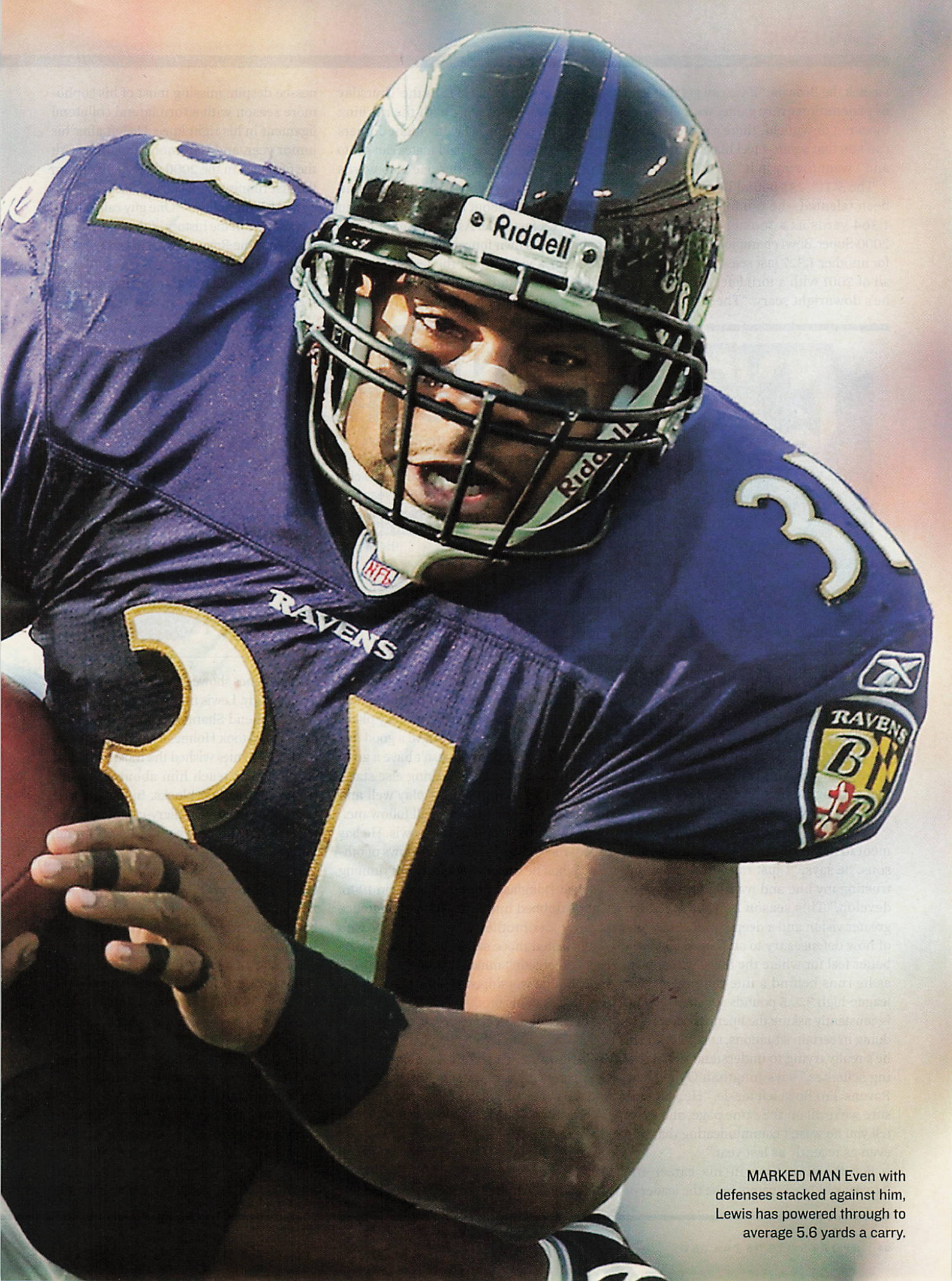
Byner chuckled, recalling that Lewis had asked him the same question on a sultry afternoon in early June, during a minicamp practice. Byner, who played 14 NFL seasons, didn't think much about the moment back then, but we should all understand its significance now. Jamal Lewis was ready to elevate his game. The only question was how high he would take it.

Here's how high Lewis has taken it this season: He leads the league with 1,045 rushing yards, and his 68 yards in a 24–17 victory over the Jacksonville Jaguars on Sunday helped the Ravens improve their record to 5–3, best in the AFC North. Lewis is averaging a gaudy 5.6 yards a carry despite constantly seeing eight- and nine-man fronts as Baltimore's rookie quarterback, Kyle Boller, learns the ropes. And Lewis is on pace to finish this season with 2,090 yards, threatening the NFL single-season record of 2,105 yards, set by Eric Dickerson in 1984.

Lewis won't talk about chasing history, but he acknowledges that he has already reached one of his personal goals: passing the 1,000-yard mark in eight games. Nor does he see any major obstacle to continuing his remarkable run. "The big thing I took away from our game against Cleveland was how well we executed," says Lewis, who had predicted a career day



 PHOTOGRAPH BY DAMIAN STROHMEYER



MARKED MAN Even with defenses stacked against him, Lewis has powered through to average 5.6 yards a carry.

against the Browns. "If we can get that kind of penetration every game, with everyone blocking downfield, there's no reason we can't do that again. I feel like I'm in a zone, and I want to stay in it."

The 5' 11", 231-pound Lewis has always been talented—he ran for a team-record 1,364 yards as a rookie, on Baltimore's 2000 Super Bowl championship team, and for another 1,327 last season after missing all of 2001 with a torn left ACL—but now he's downright scary. "There's nobody in the league with a better combination of size, speed and power," says Tennessee Titans executive vice president Floyd Reese. "He doesn't use a lot of moves, and he's not a nifty cut-back type, but he doesn't have to be. Just look at his yards after initial contact. I imagine he's broken more tackles than any back in the league."

Lewis's recent success is not just a testament to his strength. In his first three seasons, he says, "I just ran blind. Now I'm trusting my line and waiting for things to develop." This season Lewis has shown greater vision and a deeper understanding of how defenses try to stop him. He has a better feel for where the holes will appear as he runs behind a line that averages a league-high 329.5 pounds per man. "Jamal is constantly asking the linemen what we're doing in certain situations, and you can tell he's really trying to understand the blocking schemes," says Jonathan Ogden, the Ravens' Pro Bowl left tackle. "He's making sure we're all on the same page, and I can tell you he wasn't communicating that way even as recently as last year."

For the first time in his career the 24-year-old Lewis wants to be the leader of Baltimore's offense. He runs the Thursday afternoon film sessions with the running backs and organizes Friday night dinners so that he and his backfield mates can get to know one another better. He also warns younger backs, such as Musa Smith and Chester Taylor, about the dangers of life in the NFL's fast lane. As an example Lewis points to his own four-game suspension in 2001 for a violation of the league's policy on substance and alcohol abuse.

"It was time for someone to step up on offense," Lewis says. "I've always been the young guy around here, and I didn't say much because I didn't feel it was my place. Now I notice that if I don't have a good day at practice, the offense doesn't have a good day. If I'm clicking, everything else starts to click. I'm seeing that if I play well and do the right things, people will follow me."

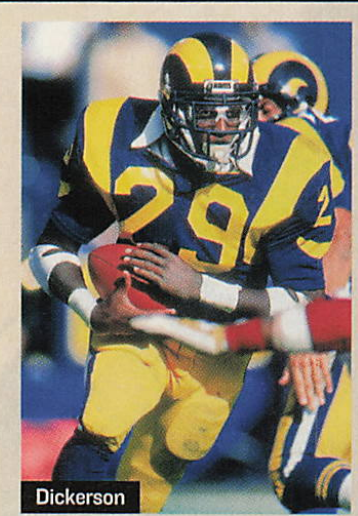
That was no easy task for Lewis. He has spent most of his life in the shadows of others. When he was a standout senior running back at Douglass High in Atlanta, in 1996, locals dubbed him Little John, a reference to his older brother, a speedy runner who had excited those same fans six years earlier. Jamal didn't mind. He idolized Bo Jackson, but he worshiped John. Jamal studied game film of his brother, and he spent most of his middle-school years working out with him before John left to play football at Carson-Newman. The brothers chopped wood together to get stronger and repeatedly raced up their steep driveway to get faster.

One thing John didn't do was push Jamal to be more outgoing. John was naturally gregarious, but Jamal opened up only around certain friends. He let his play on the field do his talking, running for 2,677 yards at Tennessee despite missing most of his sophomore season with a torn lateral collateral ligament in his right knee. He left after his junior year, and Baltimore took him with the fifth pick in the 2000 draft, making him the first running back chosen. Skeptics questioned his durability—"One guy called it the worst move in the history of the draft," Lewis says—but the Ravens loved his size and his 4.37 speed in the 40.

Baltimore offered a nurturing environment. Fullback Sam Gash and running back Priest Holmes showed Lewis the finer points of film study. Lewis trained in the off-season with tight end Shannon Sharpe. And even after Lewis took Holmes's starting job early in 2000, Holmes wished the rookie well and continued to teach him about defensive fronts and reading blocks. But as the title team was gutted in a salary-cap purge, new leaders had to emerge. On talent alone, Lewis was an obvious candidate.

He had spent the previous two training camps rooming with All-Pro linebacker Ray Lewis. Behind closed doors Jamal would boast about his skills and talk about his frustration over not being recognized as an elite back. Ray often told him to be more vocal. "Jamal got comfortable with being in the backseat around here," says Ray. "He has the same energy as me, but he wouldn't display it. I'd tell him to show the offense that side of himself, because they would see him as a leader. He's learning he shouldn't hide his charisma. His teammates need that."

So Jamal went to work. Two weeks after the end of last season, he started training in Atlanta. He worked on the treadmill to lengthen his stride and maintain his speed on long runs. He boxed to increase his sta-


Dickerson

RUN FOR THE RECORD

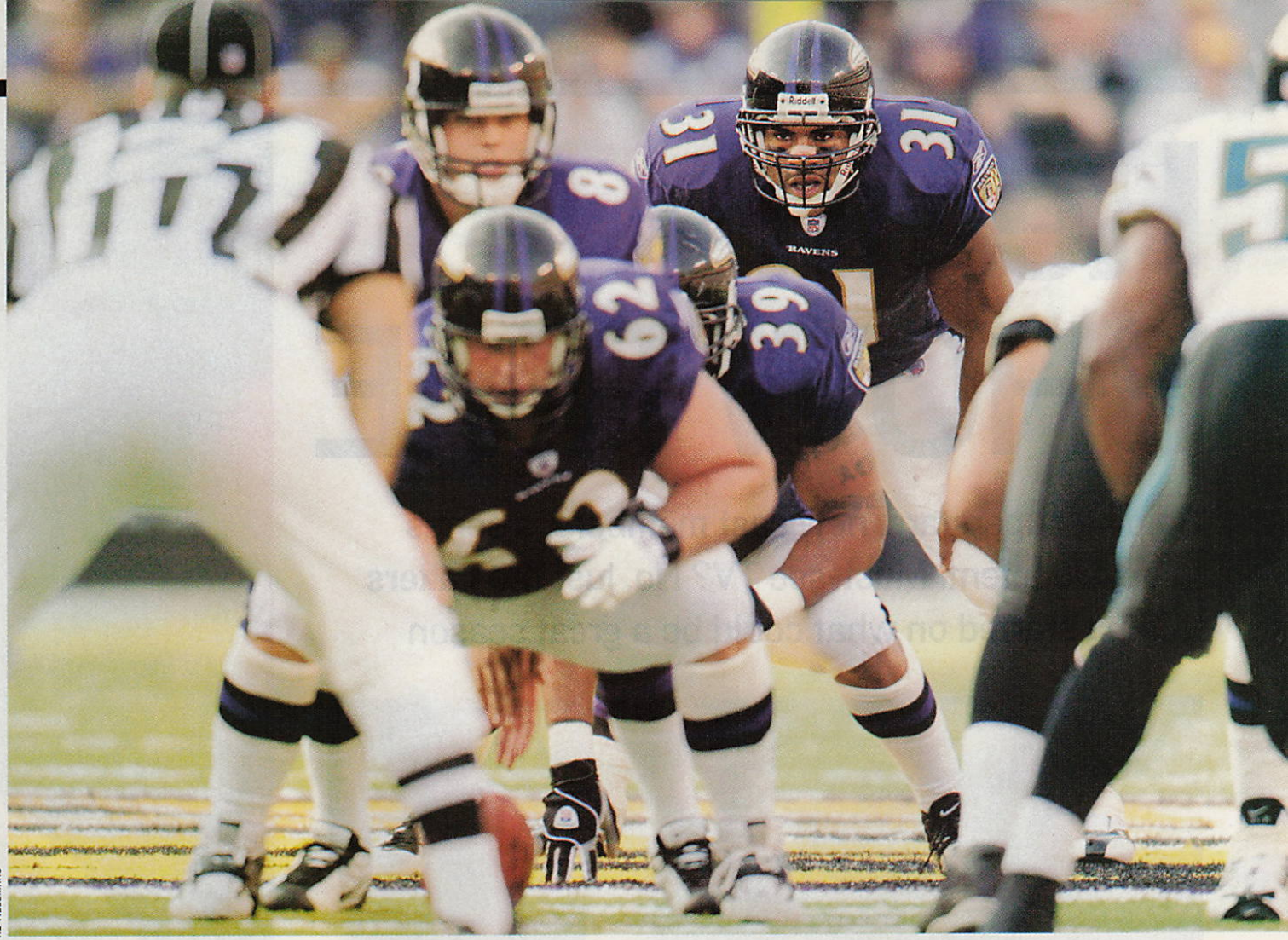
Jamal Lewis is on pace to become the fifth player in NFL history to run for 2,000 yards in a season. Halfway through this season he has rushed for more yards than Eric Dickerson had at the same point during his record-setting year.

PLAYER, TEAM	SEASON	YARDS/ EIGHT GAMES	SEASON TOTAL
Eric Dickerson, *L.A. Rams*	1984	914	2,105
Jamal Lewis, *Ravens*	2003	1,045	2,090*
Barry Sanders, *Lions*	1997	893	2,053
Terrell Davis, *Broncos*	1998	1,150	2,008
O.J. Simpson, *Bills*	1973†	1,104	2,003

*Projected †14-game season

Sanders

PETER READ MILLER (DICKERSON); JOHN BIEVER



AL TIELEMANS

WORKHORSE Lewis (31) has put the offense on his shoulders while the rookie Boller (8) gets comfortable under center.

mina and explosiveness. He even tried yoga, although he quips that "those poses are pretty hard on a big guy." He pored over tape of his two healthy NFL seasons, looking for flaws in his game. "I'd had two 1,300-yard seasons, but I really didn't get better," says Lewis. "I wanted to study the defenses and see how I could improve."

During a phone conversation last March with Ravens executive vice president Ozzie Newsome, Lewis said he wanted to lead the league in rushing, but Newsome advised him to slow down. "I told him if he stayed healthy for a second straight year, he would make a major contribution," Newsome says. "I just wanted him to redefine his goals and take smaller steps."

Lewis, however, was ready to make a huge leap. He reduced his body fat from 12% to 7%. "His speed and quickness immediately jumped out at you in training camp," Baltimore coach Brian Billick says. The change in Lewis's body language was just as noteworthy. Byner had never seen the intensity that showed in Lewis's eyes before the Ravens' season-opening loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers. Because the team fell behind early that day, Lewis carried only 15 times, for 69 yards. Since then he has averaged 23.4 carries. "I'd rather not have Jamal carry the ball 400 times," says Billick, "but if he has to carry it 400 times for us to win games, that's what he'll do."

Despite nursing a mildly bruised right shoulder, Lewis doesn't worry about wear and tear. He wants the running game to carry the offense because he believes it will create more opportunities for Boller and the passing game. "I've trained myself for a 16-week beating," Lewis says. "I never knew how big the off-season was, but I'm fresh. I can carry the load."

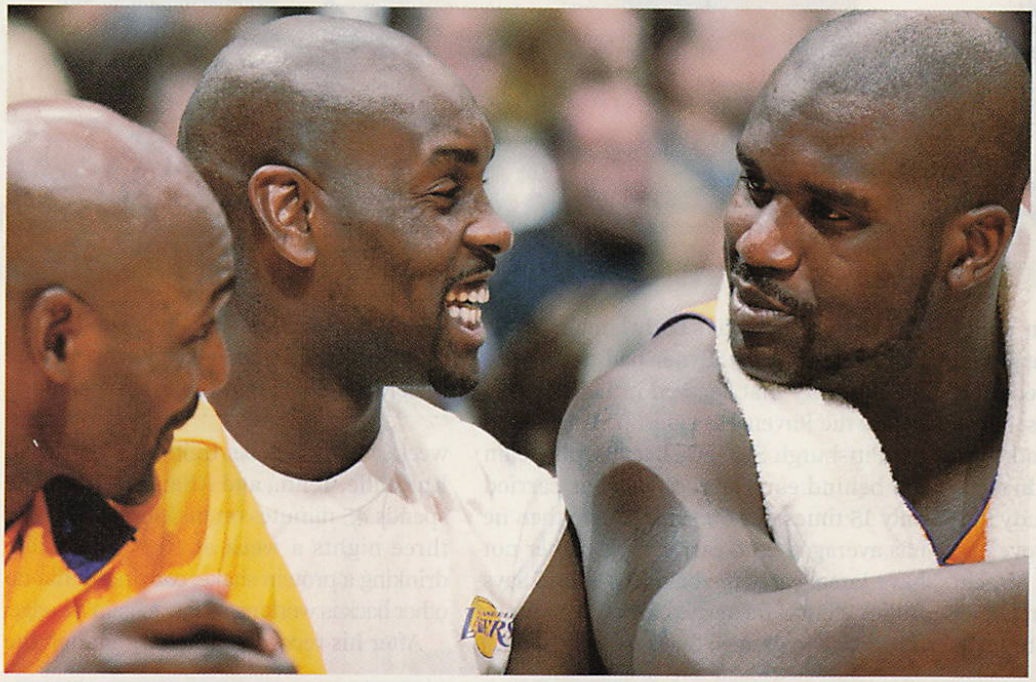
Most important, Lewis believes this is his time. That's why he spent the Ravens' bye week in early October training every day in Knoxville, Tenn., and Atlanta. It's why he spends 45 minutes on his elliptical trainer three nights a week at 10 o'clock while drinking a protein shake, convinced that no other back is working so late to gain an edge.

After his record-setting day against the Browns, Lewis gave away his shoes, visor, wristbands, anything that friends wanted as keepsakes. A Ravens publicist implored him to keep something for himself, but Lewis wasn't interested in dwelling on that day. He has much more he wants to accomplish. He hasn't even watched the tape of his finest day in football. "I was done with that game once the next week started," Lewis says. "As far as I'm concerned, there are plenty more records to be broken." □

"I've trained myself FOR A 16-WEEK BEATING. I never knew how big the off-season was, but I'm fresh. I can carry the load."

Reality SHOWTIME

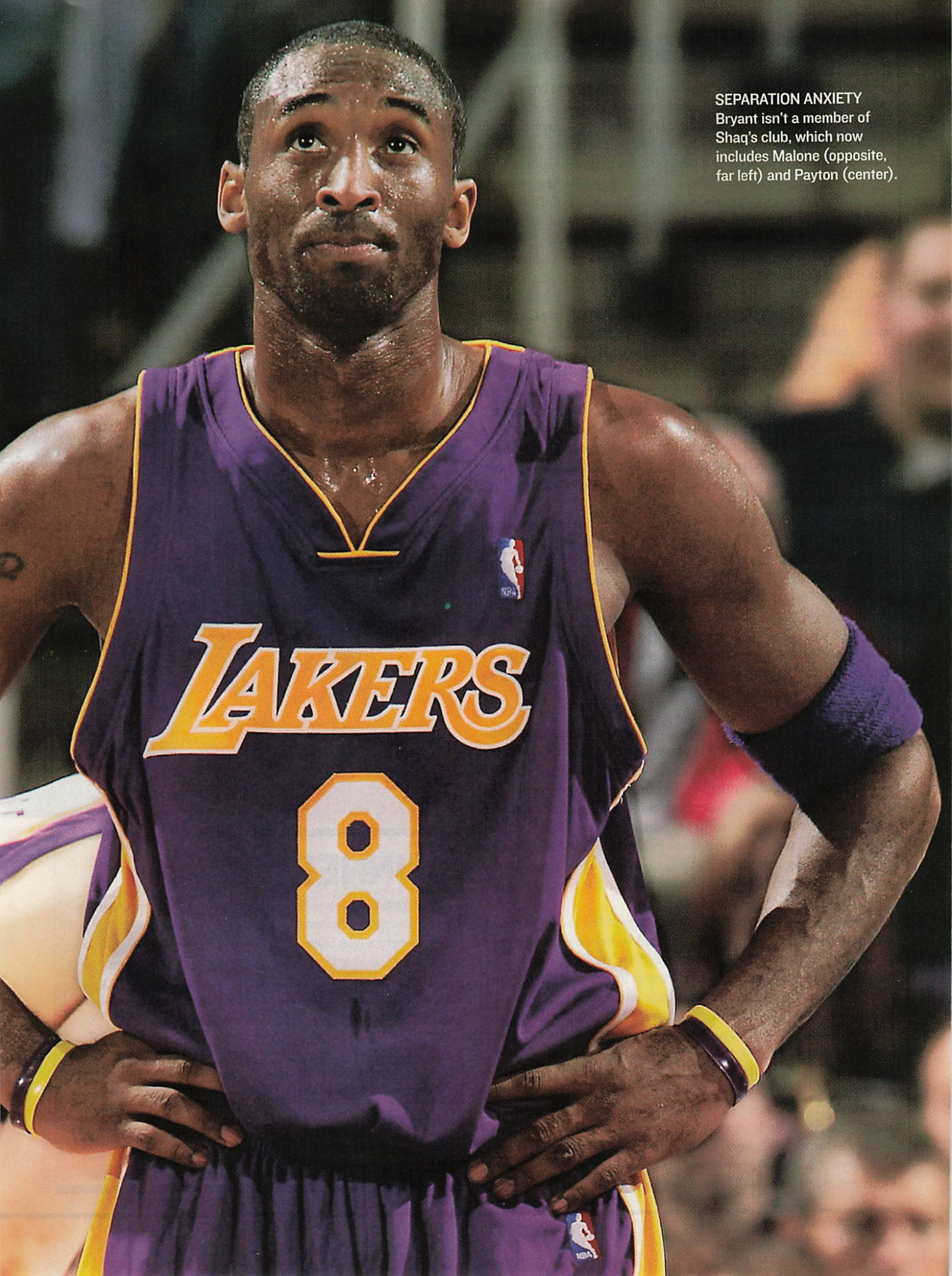
Sniping superstars, new cast members, a series in development. Must-see TV? No, just the Lakers getting started on what could be a great season



ROBERT BECK

BY JACK McCALLUM

IN LOS ANGELES, where lines that separate fact and fiction are often blurred, there are two ongoing dramas involving the Lakers. Trade publications such as *Variety* have been carrying stories about the one-hour dramatic series NBC is developing based on the life of Jeanie Buss, the team's executive vice president of business operations, the daughter of owner Jerry Buss and, famously, the significant other of coach Phil Jackson. Meanwhile, the sports pages—and at times the front pages—have been reporting on the reality series that is the NBA outfit itself, particularly the very public contretemps between those two superstar combatants, Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal. ¶ If truth is sometimes stranger than fiction, it is also sometimes more dramatic.



SEPARATION ANXIETY
Bryant isn't a member of Shaq's club, which now includes Malone (opposite, far left) and Payton (center).

Certainly the creative team behind the Buss show will have a hard time replicating the electric tension that hummed through the team in recent weeks after Shaq and Kobe started flapping their gums. That tension had diminished by the third game of the season, on Sunday, when Los Angeles beat the depleted Golden State Warriors 87–72 at the Staples Center to keep alive the prospect of an 82–0 season. Shaq and Kobe had lobbed carefully worded conciliatory comments; teammates, particularly veteran newcomers Karl Malone and Gary Payton, had leaped spryly to both players' defense; Jackson had assumed the role of Switzerland; and Shaq (among others) had laid down the kill-the-messenger card, blaming the media for a firestorm that he himself had started.

That is how it usually goes in sports—even feuding teams eventually circle the wagons, particularly if they're playing well. While L.A. showed its proclivity for getting lazy on perimeter defense and playing down to the competition in weekend victories over the Phoenix Suns (103–99 at American West Airlines Arena) and Golden State, the Fab Four was basically doing what it's supposed to be doing. Shaq was a mountain in the middle, Malone a rock at power forward, Payton an ageless jet at point guard and Bryant a consistently spectacular contributor. "Karl and Gary said it best: On any given night you can pick your poison," says O'Neal. "It's funner this way."

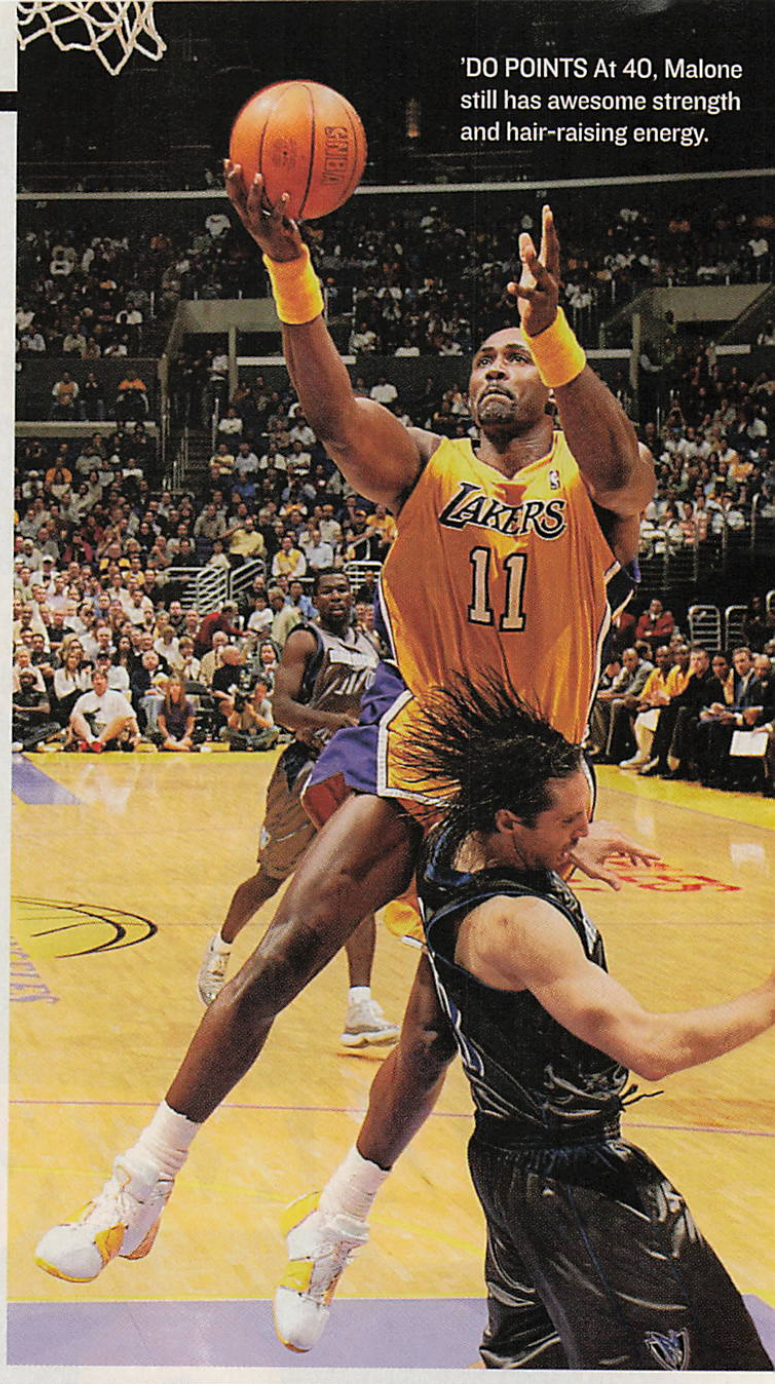
Ah, but will it stay funner? Believe this: The enmity between the superstars still exists, and the fate of this fascinating franchise—a team loaded with four future Hall of Fame players and a Hall of Fame coach, a team that Houston Rockets coach Jeff Van Gundy says could win 75 games, a team that will be considered successful only if it is the last one standing in June—depends upon how well the Lakers deal with it. Or don't deal with it.

No wonder a network is interested in a show about Jeanie Buss's life *(page 70)*. This sort of stuff just doesn't happen to an executive with the Milwaukee Bucks.

EVEN BEFORE O'Neal remarked two weeks ago that Kobe should shoot less until he has recovered from his arthroscopic right-knee surgery (a procedure that was performed, as the free world knows, on July 1 during a fateful trip to Colorado), Shaq had taken a few jabs at his teammate. While Kobe was late reporting to training camp in Hawaii because of legal obligations, O'Neal said, "The full team is here." When Shaq stayed out of a preseason game to rest a bruised left heel, he pointedly excluded Bryant in noting, "I want to be right for Derek [Fisher], Karl and Gary."

Bryant, always the counterpuncher, responded to Shaq's blows with some of his own. In what seemed to be well-thought-out comments delivered to his Boswell, ESPN's Jim Gray, Kobe questioned Shaq's friendship (he said he was angry that Shaq didn't call him when the sexual assault case came to light), his leadership and even the toe injury that kept O'Neal out of the first 12 games last season. Bryant was fined a reported $2,500 for violating the gag order that general manager Mitch Kupchak had issued earlier that day. If Bryant was truly angry, and he seemed to be, that was a pittance to pay to get it off his chest.

Two years ago it seemed as if Shaq and Kobe had patched up their differences, with an ample helping of counseling from Jackson. And during the Lakers' dreadful 11–19 start last season O'Neal and Bryant were more or less aligned against their less gifted brethren. So what is really the root cause of this new discontent?



'DO POINTS At 40, Malone still has awesome strength and hair-raising energy.

WINNERS' Circle

In their combined 94 years in the NBA, the eight Lakers with the most pro experience have had only five losing seasons: Rick Fox had four (with Boston) and Gary Payton one (with Seattle and Milwaukee). Their personal career winning percentages will likely become even gaudier after this season. —*David Sabino*

LAKERS VETERANS	NBA SEASONS	RECORD	PCT.
Derek Fisher	7	324–138	.701
Kobe Bryant	7	343–153	.692
Shaquille O'Neal	11	513–229	.691
Rick Fox	12	504–388	.565
NEWCOMERS	**NBA SEASONS**	**RECORD**	**PCT.**
Bryon Russell	10	468–230	.670
Horace Grant	16	721–389	.650
Karl Malone	18	919–515	.641
Gary Payton	13	639–388	.622

ROBERT BECK (2)

The obvious theory is that O'Neal is upset at Bryant, guilty or not, for putting himself in such a dubious spot, thereby creating the circus that has overshadowed the arrival of Malone and Payton, both of whom Shaq personally recruited. That may be part of it, but several team insiders point to something else.

For a while now Kobe has suggested that he may opt out of the final year of his contract and become a free agent after this season. He first mentioned that possibility going into the playoffs last spring and has repeated it often. That does not sit well with O'Neal, who views the Lakers as a private and exclusive club, with himself the unchallenged president. Anyone with the temerity to suggest that he might not want to share the clubhouse with President Diesel can get the hell out.

But is Bryant serious about leaving? Folks, he's as serious as a court date. Kobe truly respects Jackson, he of the nine rings, but nevertheless longs for freedom from the Zen Master's triangle offense. (Ironically, with Payton running what could be the best Lakers fast break since the halcyon days of Magic Johnson, he could probably find it now.) More important, Bryant longs to put distance between himself and the human redwood with whom he's played since 1996–97. No matter how many championships Kobe will have when he hangs it up—at 25, he has three more than Michael Jordan had at that age—he knows that as long as Shaq patrols the paint he will never truly possess the Jordanesque status of being Alpha Man on Alpha Team. Bryant believes by going to another franchise and lifting it to a championship, nobody could say he had been riding on Shaq's XXXXL coattails.

The fact that the Kobe-Shaq conflict erupted after the arrival of Malone and Payton shows how serious it is, for, to this point, the newcomers have been positive influences on both of the primary combatants, not to mention everyone else around the Lakers. Malone's work ethic—at 40, he invariably finishes near the front in wind sprints—and Payton's tough-minded competitiveness are on display for all to see. And what ever their personal feelings about the rift might be, neither has slipped up once despite being endlessly asked to deconstruct the Shaq-Kobe relationship. "Man, we just want to play basketball, all of us, together," Payton said after last Saturday night's win in Phoenix. Malone had put it more colorfully a day earlier. "It is over," he said. "You guys [in the media] are trying to get a fart out of a dead mule."

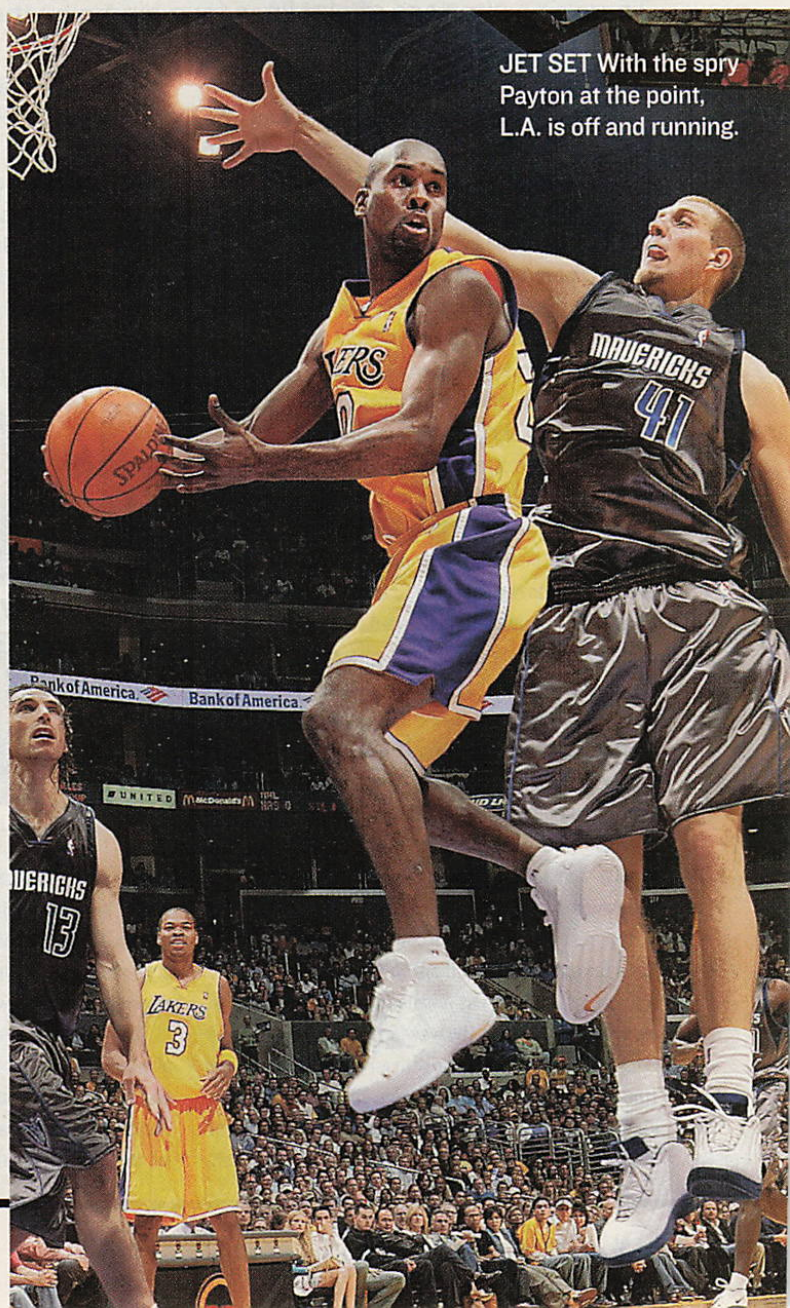
But there are limits to what even these strong personalities can do. In fact, as conciliatory as both Malone and Payton have been to Bryant, their arrival may have driven him even deeper into his shell. Shaq, Malone and Payton have become something like the Three Amigos. There they are after practice is finished, bent over at the waist in mirth as they casually shoot free throws but mostly the breeze. There is O'Neal giving Payton a big bear hug while Malone punches Shaq on the shoulder. There is Payton offering nonstop commentary as O'Neal and Malone go at each other in an insult-laced three-point shooting contest that features more bricks than swishes. And there is Bryant, off to the side, hoisting free throws, working on rehabbing his right knee, running sprints in an effort to get back his wind. Kobe is no amigo.

There can't be many lonelier men on the public stage right now than Bryant. He's the Gray Davis of sports, but his public ordeal, unlike the jilted governor's, is not nearly over. While the Lakers took a team flight to Phoenix last Friday, Bryant, because of unspecified legal obligations, flew in on Saturday morning. Jackson approved the travel arrangement, but it could happen again, and it's just another thing that marks Bryant as a man apart. That's his life right now. He's been charged with felony sexual assault in Colorado and if convicted could serve four years to life in prison. He is reportedly estranged—re-estranged is more accurate—from his parents. Last month *Saturday Night Live* cast members added to his humiliation with a skit in which his wife, Vanessa, treats him well

PASSING Judgment

Shaquille O'Neal suggested that the Lakers would be better off if Kobe Bryant dished more than he shot while recovering from knee surgery. Kobe's career stats suggest otherwise. In his seven seasons L.A. has been most successful when he has stuck close to his career average of 4.2 assists. —D.S.

BRYANT ASSISTS Per Game	LAKERS Record	WINNING Pct.
Eight or more	36–19	.655
Five to seven	107–39	.733
Zero to four	200–95	.678



JET SET With the spry Payton at the point, L.A. is off and running.

when others are around but berates him when they're alone.

In the off-season Bryant had worked to build up his body, but the demands of dealing with the rape charge hurt his conditioning and, until recently, he looked almost gaunt. Every time he goes on the road he must tune out the catcalls, try to keep his head in the game. It wasn't too bad in Phoenix—about two thirds of the crowd jeered him at the outset, though that quickly tapered off—but it's going to be a lot worse in places like Sacramento, Philadelphia and, of course, Denver. You have to believe that some wiseass arena P.A. operator is getting ready to pull out *Jailhouse Rock* when L.A. comes to town.

Against this backdrop there are those who say that the Lakers should trade Bryant before he opts out and they get nothing for the game's best all-around player. Lost in the hubbub of his pending trial and the dustup with Shaq is the fact that the man, as troubled as his spirit might be, can play a little. Bryant looked tentative at times against Phoenix, his first game after sitting out the season-opening 109–93 victory over the Dallas Mavericks, yet he contributed 15 points, six rebounds and four assists in 37 hard-played minutes. Nor did he have trouble recovering for the back-to-back game against the Warriors, in which he scored 21 points, made five steals and was the Lakers' best player. (Bryant received a sprinkling of boos but mostly cheers from the Staples Center crowd when he was introduced.)

As conciliatory as Malone and Payton have been to Bryant, their arrival may have driven him even DEEPER INTO HIS SHELL.

It's inconceivable that Kupchak wants to be known as the Guy Who Traded Kobe in the Prime of his Career. And even if he were so inclined, owner Jerry Buss said on Sunday night that he wouldn't allow Bryant to be dealt. "I'm not about to trade my son," Buss told the assembled media.

Jackson (would Jerry call him *son-in-law*?) has been fairly quiet, adopting what he calls an aspect of "watchfulness." But he is the only one with the gravitas to get through to O'Neal and Bryant, as he has in the past. And though Jackson is not the general manager, it's up to him to get a sense of whether Bryant is inclined to stay or go, and, needless to say, urge him to stay.

There's one school of thought that Jackson orchestrated the whole Kobe-Shaq feud to deflect attention from Bryant's sexual assault case. That is absurd, even allowing for Jackson's reputation as a master manipulator. Jackson was serious when he said, going into the preseason, that he wanted to give Bryant a refuge, establish a "family atmosphere" for him, and the coach was disappointed when Bryant's "family" turned out to be the Osbournes. Even Jackson couldn't invent something this intense.

Nor, it must be added, could television. □

I DREAM OF JEANIE

There's no shortage of plot lines for a drama on the Lakers' leading lady

JEANIE BUSS sees Tom Selleck in the role of Phil Jackson. "Tom is tall, good-looking, and he was an athlete," says Buss. "I think he'd be perfect." Jackson isn't so sure. "Tim Robbins maybe," he says, with some measure of chagrin. "He's an intellectual. Or so I hear."

The pilot script for the as yet untitled dramatic series about the life of Buss is being polished by Audrey Wells, who adapted and directed *Under the Tuscan Sun*, and hasn't been delivered to NBC. But already there's been much speculation about casting, which is good in Hollywood—the more buzz the better.

One of the leading candidates to play the Buss role is Kristin Davis from *Sex and the City*. Another possibility is Heather Locklear, a courtside regular at the Staples Center. NBA Entertainment has signed on as a coproducer, raising the obvious question about whether it will attempt to airbrush anything controversial (as the NFL wishes it could with ESPN's *Playmakers*). Buss isn't worried. "I think [commissioner] David Stern is savvy enough to want a product that is interesting but doesn't cross the line of integrity," she says. "And we gain so much by using real team names, real logos, real arenas."

But not real Lakers—the characters will not include Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal. If the network did want to cast players, Los Angeles forward Rick Fox is an experienced thespian (he was terrific in HBO's *Oz*) and Shaq was a so-called "genie with an attitude" in *Kazaam* (though no one suggested he give up his day job). The ideal supporting cast would be easy to imagine. For starters try Steven *(Law & Order)* Hill as the commish, Jon Voight as the Lakers' owner and James Woods as the ubiquitous TV interviewer especially tight with one of the stars.

The latest word on Wells's script is that it begins with the Buss character in bed with a man after what was evidently a night of bliss. The woman is thinking about how this man could be Mr. Right until he spoils the moment by asking for "a couple of floor seats" for that night's game. "That didn't literally happen to me," says Buss, "but I'm familiar with the situation." The plan is for the Jackson character to arrive later, replacing an old school coach, and for the Buss-Jackson relationship to blossom slowly, as it did in real life.

Buss says the show wouldn't include a re-creation of a Lakers season, but the rich tension between the team's two stars would be written in, and certainly the Jackson character would have to deal with it. That's a job for an intellectual—or so we hear. —J.M.

WHO MIGHT PLAY JEANIE?

Jeanie Buss

Kristin Davis or Heather Locklear

WHO MIGHT PLAY PHIL?

Phil Jackson

Tom Selleck or Tim Robbins

MIRANDA SHEN/CELEBRITYPHOTO.COM (BUSS); DIMITRIOS KAMBOURIS/WIREIMAGE.COM (DAVIS); STEVE GRANITZ/WIREIMAGE.COM (LOCKLEAR); JOHN W. MCDONOUGH (JACKSON); AVIK GILBOA/WIREIMAGE.COM (SELLECK); JEFF VESPA/WIREIMAGE.COM (ROBBINS)

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ANDY RODDICK Is Just Like You

Well, except for being the U.S. Open champion and being ranked No. 1 in the world and dating Mandy Moore. Other than that, he's Everyman

BY L. JON WERTHEIM

ANDY RODDICK can't find the remote either. He, too, tries to convince himself that those potato chips aren't really so fattening because they're baked. His favorite jeans are ventilated with holes, his hair is terminally tousled. He just bought a modest home not in a beautiful people enclave—Soho or South Beach or Bel-Air—but in Austin, largely so he can be near his two older brothers, John and Lawrence. This is the rare premier athlete who lives not in a parallel universe but in *our* universe. ¶ True, you and I might not be blessed with the ability to serve a tennis ball at 149 mph. And we won't be playing for the year-end No. 1 ranking in men's tennis next week at the Masters Cup in Houston. We don't necessarily date the hottie du jour or get asked to host *Saturday Night Live*. But the point is that Roddick, at his core, is one of us. Watching last month's baseball playoffs, he mused, "Man, it must be the best feeling to hit a home run, just rip back and friggin' send one." When it was suggested that the batter probably wishes he could hit a concussive serve or a screaming forehand that stabs the line, the 21-year-old Roddick's eyes went as wide as quarters. "You think?" he asked. "I never looked at it that way."

So forgive the guy if he still thinks he might be hallucinating. Did he really win the U.S. Open in September and upgrade his billing from the future of American tennis to its present? Is that really *his* name that keeps crawling across the bottom of the screen as he watches ESPN? Was he really hanging out in Las Vegas last month with Robin Williams? The singer-actress Mandy Moore, is she really his girlfriend of 15 months? "I'll be the first to admit it, the life I'm leading is basically a joke," says Roddick. "I should probably be cooler about it, but I can't fake it, you know?"

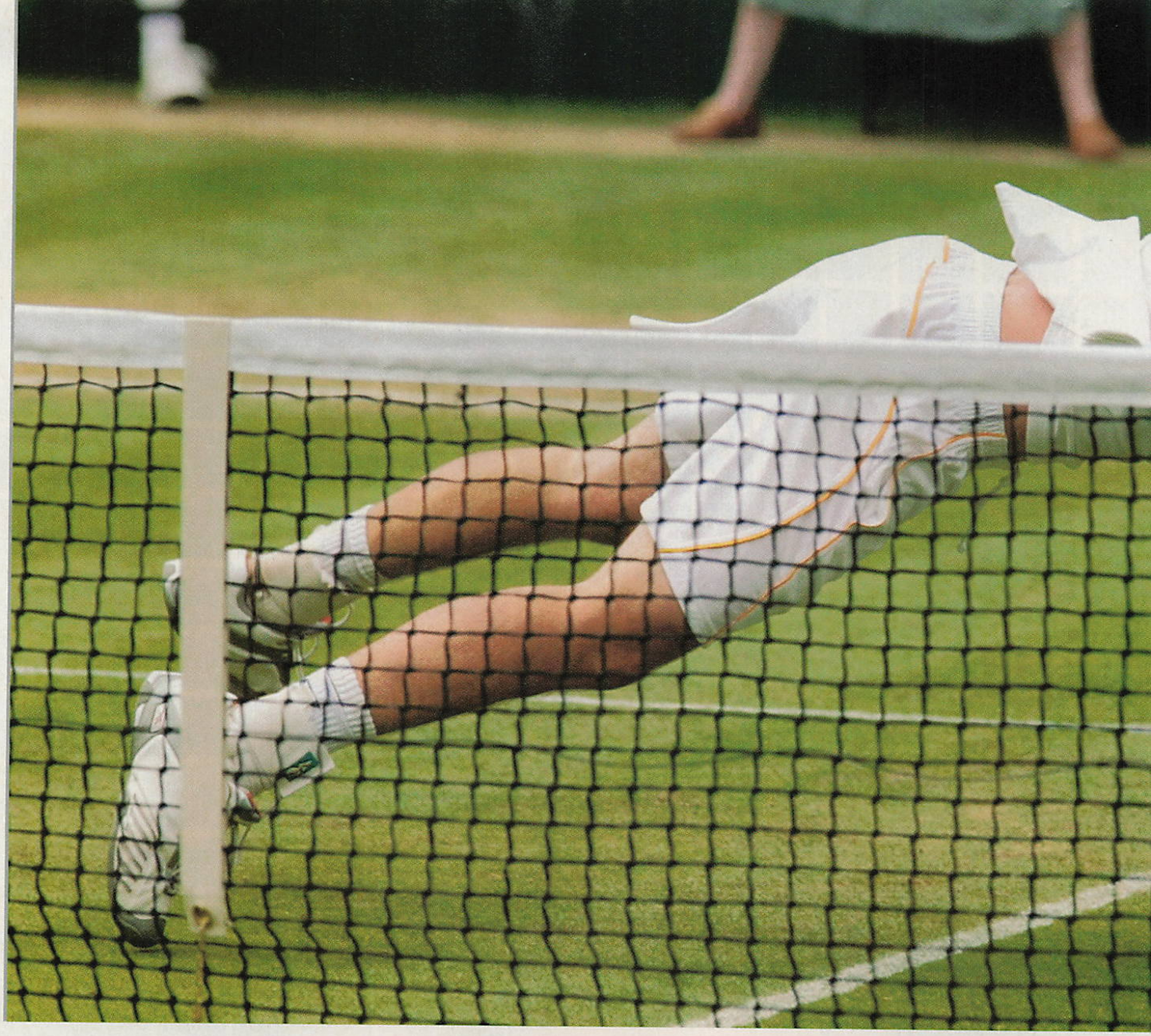
The Nebraska-born Roddick and his Everyman sensibilities may ultimately do just as much as the Williams sisters have done to splinter the stereotypes that bedevil their sport. Put it this way: Although he turned it down, Roddick is the first tennis player ever to have fielded an endorsement offer from Red Bull. "He's a breath of fresh air, because there's no pretense about him," says Dean Bonham, a Denver-based sports marketing expert. "He makes no attempt to fit into a tennis-player mold."

Which is to say that it's hard to call Roddick "preppy" or "elitist" as long as his preferred attire is campy T-shirts adorned with such witticisms as DON'T SWEAT THE PETTY. PET THE SWEATY. ("Dude, it was on a wardrobe rack at a photo shoot and I totally five-finger-discounted it," Roddick says.) As for the notion that you can't make it as a tennis pro unless you learn the Western grip in the crib and sacrifice your adolescence at the altar of Bollettieri or at some other Florida hothouse: It wasn't all that long ago that Roddick was a scrawny kid in Austin taking group lessons with Chris Mihm and Drew Brees—today a forward for the Cleveland Cavaliers and the quarterback of the San Diego Chargers, respectively. "They both kicked my ass," Roddick recalls. By age 14 he had showed enough potential to be invited to attend a tennis academy near Tampa. Within weeks he was back home. "I realized I loved tennis," he says, "just not at the expense of everything else." He ended up at Boca Prep Academy in Boca Raton, Fla., where his parents had moved, and even played on the school's basketball team.

DAVID HANCOCK/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

WHAT, ME WORRY? Thanks in part to Gilbert, fans see Roddick's relaxed, goofy side more now—not just his game face.

PHOTOGRAPH BY PETER READ MILLER



"He's a breath of fresh air because there's NO PRETENSE ABOUT HIM," says Bonham. "He makes no attempt to fit into a tennis-player mold."

The dark backstory that is all but required of professional tennis players? Suffice it to say that if a *Behind the Music*–type feature were ever done on Roddick, the obligatory "downfall" segment would be hopelessly lame. *Coming up next: Andy can't go to the slumber party, because he didn't give his parents advance notice.*

The third son of Blanche and Jerry Roddick, who were teenage sweethearts in Wisconsin and have been married nearly 40 years, Andy had a childhood that could have been illustrated by Norman Rockwell. The closest thing to a crisis came in the mid-1990s when his brother John, now 27, had to forsake a promising tennis career because of a back injury. Instead, John graduated from Georgia, got married and now runs a successful tennis academy in San Antonio.

The entourage that flanks even the most marginal player? Roddick usually travels only with his coach, Brad Gilbert. The three or four times a year that Blanche (a homemaker) and Jerry (an entrepreneur who made a fortune buying Jiffy Lube franchises) attend tournaments, they sit camouflaged in the crowd so neither their son nor the television cameras can find them.

The self-absorption that defines most top players? Notwithstanding the complaints of a few sore losers who resent Roddick's on-court emoting, the kid is popular among his peers, a merry prankster who treats other players like frat brothers. When his Davis Cup teammate James Blake appeared in a *New York Times Magazine* fashion spread before the U.S. Open, Roddick wallpapered the locker room with the photos. "For a top player, Andy is amazingly low-maintenance," says Patrick McEnroe, the U.S. Davis Cup captain.

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RON C. ANGLE/BEI

GRASS HOPPER Roddick's diving, go-for-broke style helped him reach his first Wimbledon semifinal last July.

Roddick's game isn't derivative either. He lacks the elegant strokes of Pete Sampras; if there's one thing Roddick is not, it's a skilled technician. Nor does he possess Andre Agassi's ability to hit the ball crisply almost before it bounces. Roddick competes with the passion of Jimmy Connors and John McEnroe but has neither Connors's gritty return game nor McEnroe's stiletto volleys. Roddick is a player for the new millennium who, aided by both his 6' 3" frame and space-age racket technology, doesn't hit the ball so much as he pulverizes it, and he plays matches at the pace of speed chess. He also has a competitive streak to match his turbo game. "Every point, Andy is imposing his will on you," says the 36th-ranked Blake. "That's why he is where he is."

Roddick's current status as the hottest act in tennis was almost inconceivable six months ago. Beset by spotty conditioning and, as a result, an assortment of minor injuries, Roddick was a work in progress—if not regress. Rock bottom came at the French Open last May. Looking clueless on his least favorite surface, he lost his first match to a marginal player, Sargis Sargsian. With a heavy heart, Roddick parted ways with his longtime coach, Tarik Benhabiles. "Our friendship was getting scarred," says Roddick, "because we weren't getting along tenniswise."

Benhabiles, a tightly wound Frenchman, was the ideal coach when Roddick was a talented teenager capable of, by his own admission, "some fierce slacking." Benhabiles built up Roddick's confidence and imbued in him a sense of professionalism. But by the time Roddick was 20 and ranked fifth in the world, the coach's leash was feeling too short. Rigid match preparation only added to the burden of expectation Roddick felt from American fans.

Gilbert, meanwhile, hadn't coached consistently since parting ways with Agassi in February 2002. He was home in San Rafael, Calif., preparing to take his family on a Winnebago trip through the Rockies when Roddick called him. Says Gilbert, "I felt like Phil Jackson getting asked to coach the Lakers."

At first blush Roddick-Gilbert is a curious coupling. As a pro Gilbert played chintzy tennis, an unsightly Punch-and-Judy style aimed at annoying opponents into submission. Roddick's game is the polar opposite. "Andy," says Gilbert, "is all about hitting a home run every time." Tem-

peramentally, Roddick takes pride in his arrested development and, as the shirt says, doesn't sweat the petty. Gilbert, 42, is a father of three who projects California insouciance, but as a coach he's almost neurotically attentive to detail. Nevertheless, they have clicked, relying on a male lingua franca of sports, Tom Petty and good-natured mutual dissing.

When Gilbert says he wants Roddick to play more like Ivan Lendl, Roddick smirks. "If people want to know why Brad loves Lendl so much, tell them to check out Brad's record against him," Roddick says. (We'll save you the trouble. Gilbert was 0–16.) Gilbert flips through the 1,254 songs on Roddick's iPod and offers a filibuster on schlocky contemporary music. "It's called taste, Andy," Gilbert concludes. "Get some."

Gilbert's calling card is that of a nonpareil tactician, but his real gift to Roddick has been his calming influence. On the drive to the U.S. Open final—far and away the biggest match of Roddick's career—Gilbert imparted the following gems of wisdom.

• The Golden State Warriors need to shore up their backcourt.

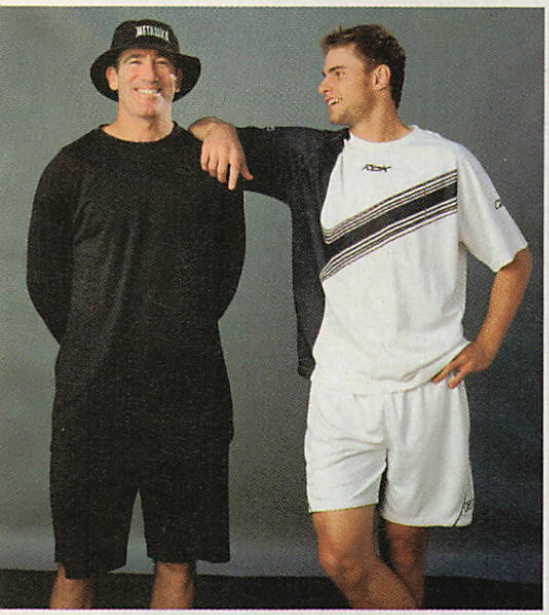
• *Siskel & Ebert* sounded better than *Ebert & Roeper* does.

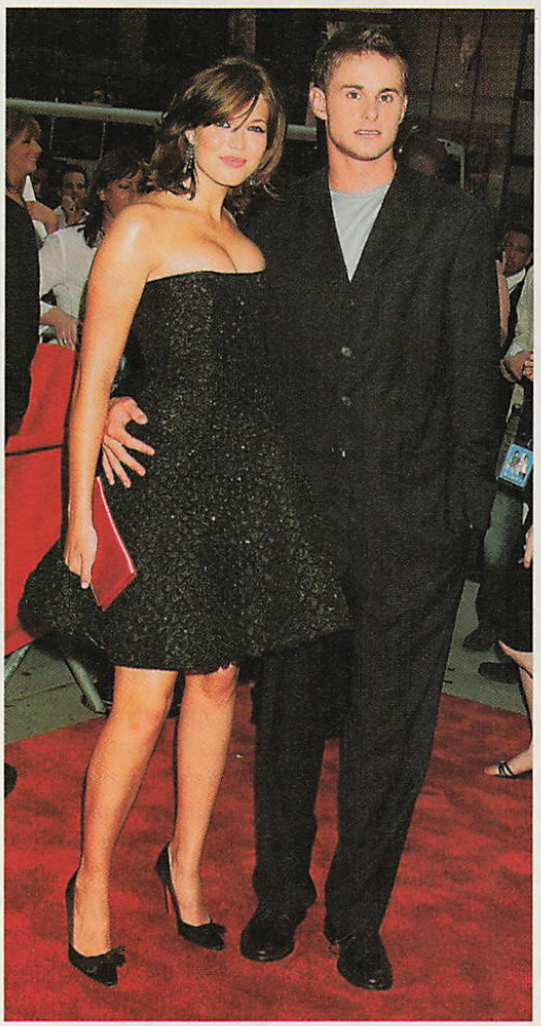
• Chinese food is easier to cook than you might think.

Yet the underlying message was pitch perfect: Don't treat today any differently—this may as well be a Tuesday match in Memphis. Roddick took the court in Arthur Ashe Stadium in a carapace of calm and ran roughshod over Juan Carlos Ferrero in straight sets. "This is the anti-'stay in your room and focus,' " says Roddick, in a thinly cloaked reference to Benhabiles's approach. "This is, 'Hey, chill out, play video games before your U.S. Open match. Save all that intensity and energy for when you go on the court.' "

Now that Gilbert has helped take Roddick to the summit—earlier this week the kid took the top spot in the ATP rankings—the trick, of course, is to set up camp there. Roddick's game still has significant room for improvement. "There's nothing he can't do 20 percent better," says Gilbert. In particular Roddick has to continue to fortify his backhand and to improve his court positioning so he's not hitting from the seats behind the baseline. But as Gilbert knows from the time he spent with the chronically up-and-down Agassi, sustaining focus is not always easy, especially for an ascending star.

When Roddick suggested that they work together, Gilbert says, "I FELT LIKE PHIL JACKSON getting asked to coach the Lakers."





MIXED DOUBLES Roddick is making the most of his partnerships with Gilbert on the tennis court and Moore off it.

The credits had barely finished rolling on the U.S. Open when Roddick boarded a flight to Slovakia to play a Davis Cup tie. Then, citing hamstring and knee injuries, he pulled out of events in Bangkok and Tokyo, to the dismay of promoters who had been prepared to lavish fat appearance fees on him. After a week or so of training with Gilbert in the Bay Area, Roddick headed back to Europe for three weeks of indoor events. His last tournament of 2003 will be next week in Houston, but his off-season, such as it is, is already booked with exhibitions and benefits and commitments to his sponsors.

"Dude, you gotta chill out," Gilbert tells Roddick sternly.

It's not going to happen. Having witnessed the fate of his brother John—who had a top 10 world ranking as a junior but never won an ATP match—Andy knows he could wake up tomorrow with a slipped disk, and the ride could end. He also knows that, particularly in the U.S., he can do wonders to boost the appeal of his sputtering sport. "There's no home team in tennis, no built-in fan base," Roddick says, "so the players have to step up and do their fair share."

Above all, Roddick is having too much fun to dial it back. So the Everyman Champ will throw out the first pitch at the baseball game and go on *The Today Show* and play a full schedule of tournaments. The kid, as Tom Petty put it, is running down a dream. □

PETER READ MILLER (LEFT); NANCY KASZERMAN/ZUMA PRESS, INC.

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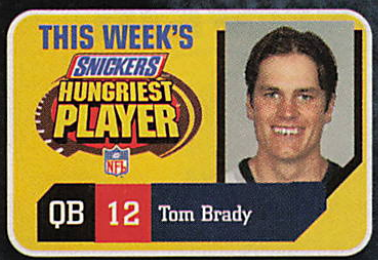

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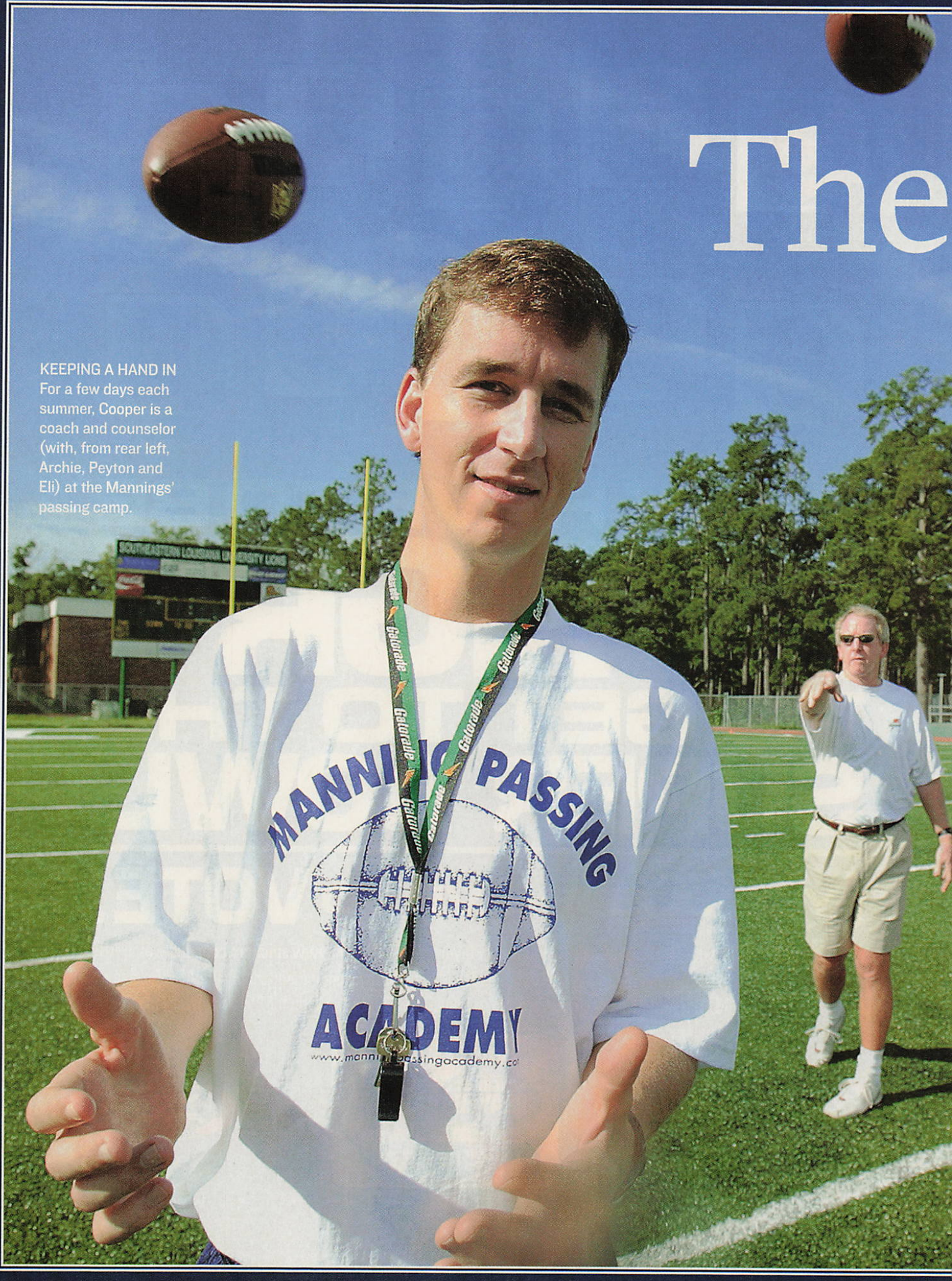


The

KEEPING A HAND IN
For a few days each summer, Cooper is a coach and counselor (with, from rear left, Archie, Peyton and Eli) at the Mannings' passing camp.

FOOTBALL

Other Brother

Like his famous father, Archie, and younger siblings, Peyton and Eli, Cooper Manning had NFL-caliber talent. Then his body betrayed him

BY JOHN ED BRADLEY

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BILL FRAKES

IT'S A FOOL'S TASK to guess how good he might have been. But consider his father's career and who his brothers are, and you might conclude that he would've made something halfway decent of himself. You might even decide that Cooper Manning, now 29 and more than a decade out of football, would've been one of the best players of his generation. If nothing else, he'd have been a college All-America and a first-round NFL draft pick. And young parents all across the Deep South, smitten with his good looks and winning personality, would be naming their newborns after him. Better still, someone who calls himself a balladeer would've written a really bad song about him. Like *The Ballad of Archie Who*—which mythologized the exploits of his father as an Ole Miss Rebel—the song would be a cult favorite played in juke joints all over Dixie, from the Delta clear down to the Gulf Coast, and the sound of it would raise gooseflesh on anyone who knows anything about love and Mississippi.

It's not *Coo-per*, by the way, but *Cupper*. No, it's not *Cupper* either. His Southern roots are deep, so the name sounds more like *Cooker*. You need to practice saying it a few times before trying it out on him. Get it wrong and he'll correct you before your tongue can reset itself. "You don't eat a chocolate-chip *coo*-kee, do you?" he asks. "No, you eat a cookie. My name is pronounced the same way. It's *Cuh-pah. Cuh-pah.*"

And he's probably the one Manning you've never heard of. In New Orleans, where he lives, people recognize him wherever he goes as one of Archie's boys. He's tall and gangly, and his hair has a subtle undercoat of the family's trademark red, and he carries himself with such confidence that it always seems as if he's just orchestrated a game-winning touchdown drive. But which one is he? Is he Eli, the quarterback at Ole Miss? Or Peyton, the quarterback of the Indianapolis Colts? Is he even a quarterback? Or a football player, for that matter? If he doesn't play football, then how come?

"You wouldn't believe the things people say to him," says his wife, Ellen. "'Hey, your brothers are so good, why aren't you anything? Why aren't you in the NFL? What happened to you?' Whenever it happens—and it happens a lot—I'm like, 'Hey, let me tell you something, mister! He's just. . . .'

And that's when Cooper steps in and makes me stop. 'Aw, come on,' he says, 'they don't know anything. Don't worry about it.' "

There are ballads, and then there's Cooper's ballad. It would be a heartbreaker if he weren't one of the funniest guys alive. Cooper's ballad tells the story of a gifted 18-year-old receiver who seems destined for the big time until doctors inform him that he suffers from a congenital narrowing of the spinal canal—spinal stenosis, they call it—and his football career abruptly ends only months into his freshman year at Ole Miss, in 1992. He endures three major operations, one of them a harrowing spinal surgery that leaves an eight-inch-long scar along the back of his neck. His chest and shoulders lose their once muscular form. His right hand becomes atrophied and disfigured and has a constant tremor, and he can't control the fingers well enough to throw a football or type except by the old hunt-and-peck method. His left leg is numb; his right leg is sometimes so sapped of strength that he drags it.

As the memory of his athletic excellence grows dim, and as people stop speculating about what he might have been, his kid brothers mature into two of the finest talents in all of football. After a brilliant career at Tennessee, Peyton becomes an All-Pro with the Colts, earning millions en route to establishing himself as one of the most popular and respected players in the game. Eli develops into an All-SEC quarterback and a certain top pick in next year's draft. You grow up a Manning, and it seems to be your birthright to gorge on the sweet nectars of fame and glory—unless your first name is Cooper, that is.

"If one of us had to lose football, I'm glad it was me," Cooper says. "When people ask why I don't play and my dad or one of my brothers is around, he's more uncomfortable with the question than I am. And he kind of jumps to answer, like he's trying to protect me. I say, 'Well, I've run out of eligibility.' Or I'll whisper, 'I'm the smart one in the family, can't you tell?' I'll also say, 'I'm a bowler.' Or 'I play piano.' Or 'I like ballet.' In other words, I'll say just about anything I think I can get away with."

Before Ellen and Cooper moved to their new address on Webster Street, they lived several blocks away in a house on Pine Street. They were paid regular visits by a neighbor who liked to ring their doorbell just so he could talk to Cooper, son of the great Archie, brother of the great Peyton and Eli. It's the price one pays for being a Manning in the land of Mannings, even when you're the one who didn't make it. People gawk in public. They also gawk in private, as did this man, who never could get Cooper's name right. Cougar Manning, he called him.

Rather than correct him, Cooper let the man continue to call him by the wrong name, getting a perverse satisfaction each time he heard the pronunciation mangled.

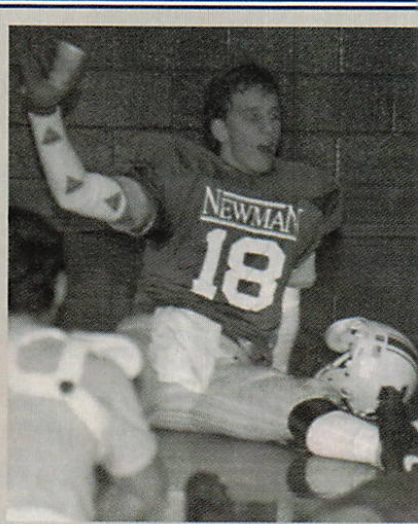
See you later, Cougar.

What's that?

I said, See you later, Cougar.

Huh?

"Where do you come from?" Archie has asked Cooper more than once, unable to make sense of the notion that they might be related. "Sometimes I wonder if somebody didn't leave you on my doorstep."



PLAYING FOR LAUGHS Growing up, Cooper (white shirt, in '81; No. 18, with Peyton in '91; pulling brothers' ears in '96) was the joker in the Mannings' deck.

HE'S BEEN different from the start. Archie had just finished his third year with the New Orleans Saints when Cooper came along in 1974, weighing 12 pounds, three ounces. His birth made the papers both in New Orleans and in Mississippi, where Archie's legend was so large that practically anything he did made the papers. Buried under the news that the South had its next great quarterback was the matter of the child's size. While Olivia, his mother, was embarrassed at having had such a big baby, Archie took it in stride, wondering if he might have an offensive lineman on his hands. They named him after Olivia's father, Cooper Williams, proprietor of an old-time country store in Philadelphia, Miss. Two years later Peyton was born, then Eli arrived in 1981. The younger boys had their strengths, but in the beginning it was Cooper who seemed especially gifted. He was smart, witty and fearless, and when family parties were dragging, Olivia invariably turned to him and said, "O.K., Coop, let's see if you can shake things up."

A group of adults would be gathered in serious conversation, and Cooper would walk in, armed with a joke his grandmother had taught him. "The world could be coming to an end, and he's onstage trying to get people to laugh," Olivia says. "We created a monster."

Not all of his jokes originated with his grandmother. Some came from older boys who knew the little knucklehead would repeat anything, especially if Archie wasn't around. "Do you want to hear a joke?" Cooper asked unsuspecting strangers one day at Mississippi's Neshoba County Fair. He was about five years old, with a wad of tobacco in his mouth and an accent straight out of *Hee Haw*, and it was summertime, after his dad had reported to training camp.

"Sure, I'd like to hear a joke, little boy."

"Cost you a quarter."

"Here you are, son."

"A man dressed like a cowboy walks into an ice cream store and orders an ice cream cone. The lady behind the counter says, 'Do you want your nuts crushed?' The man pulls out his gun and says, 'No, do you want your boobs shot off?' " Those he didn't make

laugh he at least made uncomfortable.

Cooper also liked to educate Peyton whenever he thought the boy needed it, such as the time that Cooper got sick of watching him ride his tricycle up and down the driveway and decided to see how many times he could throw a brick over Peyton's head without hitting him. Finally the brick hit Peyton, or Cooper hit Peyton with the brick, depending on your point of view. "I got spanked pretty good for that," Cooper says. "Someone had given Dad a bunch of belts with our names carved in the leather. One said COOP, another PEYTON. My dad's just had his jersey number on it. 'Y'all don't cut it out, number 8's coming out,' he'd say. We were scared to death of number 8."

and all the pictures crashing to the floor."

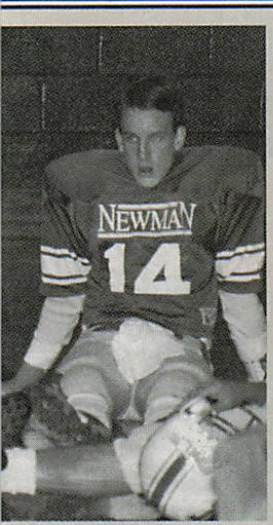
"We had bloodshed," confirms Olivia.

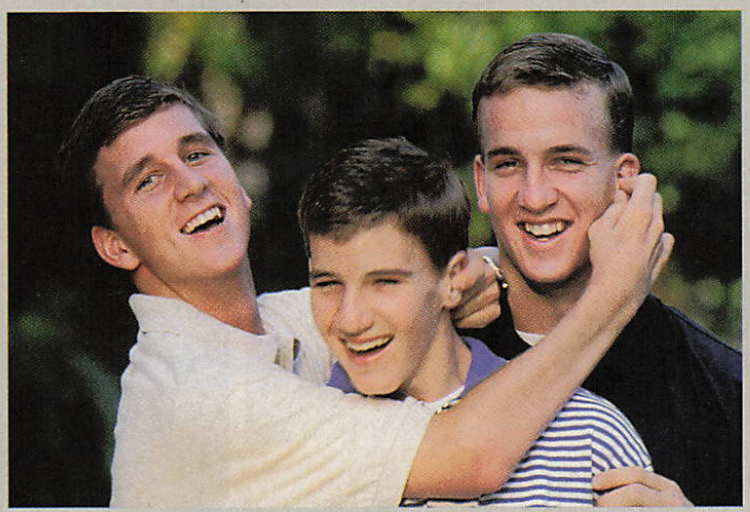
Cooper felt free to hammer Peyton, but no one else had the right. If another boy dared to bully or mistreat Peyton, Cooper was quick to come to his brother's defense.

"Cooper taught me at a young age how miserable it is to lose," says Peyton, now 27, "and without him I never would've become as competitive as I am. He toughened me up, but he also taught me something else. I'm a serious person by nature—sometimes too serious. Cooper and I always had this deal: His job was to help me stay loose, and mine was to help him be more serious. 'Peyton, loosen up a little bit,' he'd say. I've helped him, too, because now he understands how inappropriate it is to make fun of a guy just because he's wearing an ugly sport coat."

a large house in the Garden District, an affluent neighborhood crowded with century-old mansions and popular with tour groups. One of their neighbors on First Street is best-selling author Anne Rice, whose gothic novels so impress some of her readers that they show up in front of her house dressed like vampires. Tours regularly stop for a look at the Mannings', too, which means that several times a day a crowd of 20 or more gawks at the handsome Greek Revival house as a guide lists the accomplishments of Archie, Peyton and Eli, rarely mentioning the other brother who grew up there.

One day not long ago Cooper stopped by to pick up Archie and Olivia and take them to a movie, and as they left he lowered his





As a high school senior Cooper was a first team all-state wideout. He ran routes that turned defensive backs in circles.

Cooper was faster, stronger and more fluid than Peyton, no doubt because he was older. But as an athlete Cooper was superior to most of the boys in his class as well. When Cooper and Peyton played basketball outside, Archie often pulled the elder child aside and instructed him to let his little brother win. But doing so was often more than Cooper could stomach. "I'm eight and you're 10 and I beat you," Peyton once said.

Cooper charged with fists raised. He said, "Dad, I let him win, he didn't beat me!"

"You know how lucky you boys are to have each other?" Archie made a habit of reminding them. "I would love to have had a brother. Come on. You two need to appreciate each other more."

They appreciated each other just fine; it was one getting the better of the other that neither could abide. "I remember the fights," says Eli, now 22. "They'd be upstairs in the room arguing. Then you'd hear them slamming each other against the wall

Peyton was Cooper's favorite target, but Cooper spared no one, not even Archie. There were years when Archie was the best player on the worst team in pro football: the Ain'ts, as they were known. Fans reported to the Superdome with paper bags pulled over their heads, holes punched for eyes, mouths turned downward in misery. Players and their families were humiliated and outraged. Then one Sunday a boy and his brother—sons of the team's leader, no less—pulled bags over their own heads. Cooper and Peyton got a lot of attention for the prank. No one had to ask whose idea it was. "Whenever anyone tells me he's got a brother who's a character, I just roll my eyes and say, 'You do, do you? Well, you've never met anyone like *my* brother.' Come to think of it, *I've* never met anyone like my brother."

Archie and Olivia raised their children in

window, stuck his head out and faced a group of tourists gathered on the sidewalk. "Front door's open," he announced. "Go on in and make yourselves at home."

"Cooper used to come up to Tennessee when I had a game," Peyton says, "and on Friday night we had a 10:30 curfew. Cooper would go out to a bar and sit around drinking beer and smoking a cigar. It's one in the morning. Before you know it, some Tennessee fan walks up to him and says, 'Hey, Peyton! What are you doing out? It's one o'clock!' And instead of correcting the guy, Cooper says, 'Hey, we're just playing Kentucky tomorrow. What's the big deal?' "

ALL THREE brothers attended the Isidore Newman School in New Orleans, a small private institution with high academic standards and, when the Manning boys were there, some of the most exciting football teams the city had ever seen. Cooper was a promising reserve

LANE STEWART (LEFT); COURTESY OF MANNING FAMILY (CENTER)

quarterback for the Class 2A Greenies until his junior year, when he helped persuade his coach to replace their antiquated wing T offense with a more pass-oriented attack, featuring Cooper himself as the top wide receiver. His most extensive duty at quarterback had come late in his sophomore season. Against Redeemer, Cooper replaced the injured starter and his injured backup and threw a 99-yard touchdown pass, but it was his only completion in 14 attempts. In a later game, against Belle Chase, he threw five interceptions. "I waited up for him to come home [that night]," Archie says. "I thought he might need consoling. I can remember games when I had five interceptions—at least three times in my career—and I wanted to jump off a bridge afterward. When Coop came in the door, I said, 'You didn't beat me. I threw six against Tennessee in Knoxville one afternoon.' Cooper always had great self-confidence. He looked at me and said, 'Well, they weren't my fault, Dad. I'm a receiver, anyway.' "

Two years later Cooper was first team all-state. By then he stood 6' 4" and weighed 185 pounds, and he ran the 40-yard dash in 4.7 seconds, a fair time for a late-developing receiver of his size but hardly the kind to attract more than a handful of major-college recruiters. Even so, he was strong and crafty, and he ran routes that turned defensive backs in circles. Like his brothers, Cooper had the advantage of being the son of involved parents, one of whom happened to be a 14-year NFL veteran.

On weekends Archie regularly took his three sons to Newman's field and worked them out. With Cooper he played a game called Ten Balls. Standing 10 yards away, Archie would throw passes to the teenager as hard as he could, aiming some high, others low. If Cooper missed a ball, they'd start over. They couldn't return home until Cooper had made 10 straight catches.

Cooper's hands were so good that during his junior year at Newman he didn't miss a pass thrown to him. The next year, 1991, Peyton graduated to the varsity and won the starting job at quarterback. Though only a sophomore, he was already a superb leader with a big, strong body and the ability to throw deep accurately. On the first pass play of the year Cooper was wide open on a post-corner route after faking out the cornerback. Peyton delivered the ball to him in a soft spiral, and from those in attendance who'd been waiting for this moment, a roar went up. History was being made: Peyton Manning was throwing his first pass in a high school game, and it was to Cooper Manning. But the ball fell through Cooper's hands.

Newman fans who witnessed the play were so unaccustomed to seeing Cooper drop a pass, even in warmups, that they wondered if he'd done it on purpose, as a way of getting at the upstart Peyton and starting the season with a laugh. "Nope, he just missed it," says Archie. "We all sat there stunned. There's no doubt that something was going on with his hand."

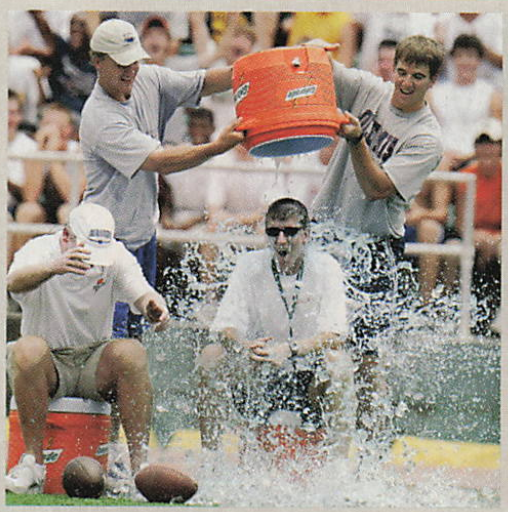
Cooper says he simply misplayed the ball, but he missed other passes later in the season, and he blames those drops on the weakness he was beginning to feel in his right hand. His pinkie and ring fingers occasionally went numb; other times they felt as if they were being pricked with needles. When the weather turned cold, his right hand felt frozen and he could barely squeeze with it. Rather than tuck the ball under his right arm when he ran with it, he tucked it under his left. Unable to squeeze the ball to throw it, he learned how to throw lefthanded. He held for the kicker on field goal and extra point attempts, and once on a fake field goal he threw the ball with his right hand. It went up in a wild wobble but still found its target for the touchdown. The hand "just didn't feel right," Cooper told Archie after the game. But Archie says he never imagined a medical problem.

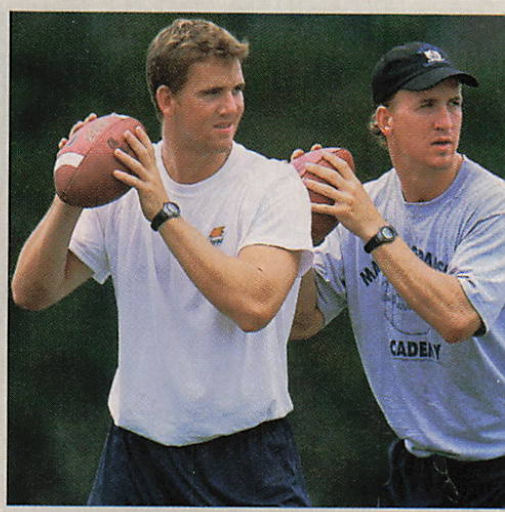
Cooper said nothing about the problem to his coaches or teammates, including Peyton, and it seemed that no one noticed the difficulty he was experiencing, perhaps because he remained a dominant presence on the field and superior to any defensive back he faced. He and Peyton communicated with hand signals at the line of scrimmage and with glances familiar to each other since they were children playing games on the front lawn on First Street. "I'm-open-I'm-open-I'm-open," Cooper badgered his brother in the huddle. If Peyton threw an incompletion his way, Cooper always demanded another try. "Throw it again," he'd say. "Hey, come on, throw it to me again, Peyton."

"Even when he was covered," Peyton says, "you could always loft it up high, and he'd catch it. No defensive back could stop him—he was taller than they were, and he could leap well. This creates a perfect comfort zone for the quarterback. Hey, you think, Cooper's either going to catch the ball or make sure it's incomplete."

Newman's season ended with a 27–21 loss to Haynesville in the state semifinals, and Cooper, who had 76 catches and 1,250 yards on the year, was named Newman's most

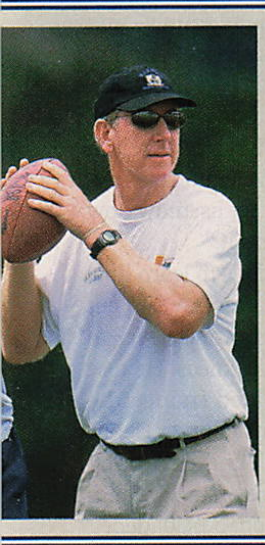
"If one of us had to lose football, I'm glad it was me. When people ask why I don't play, I'll say, 'I'm the smart one, can't you tell?' "

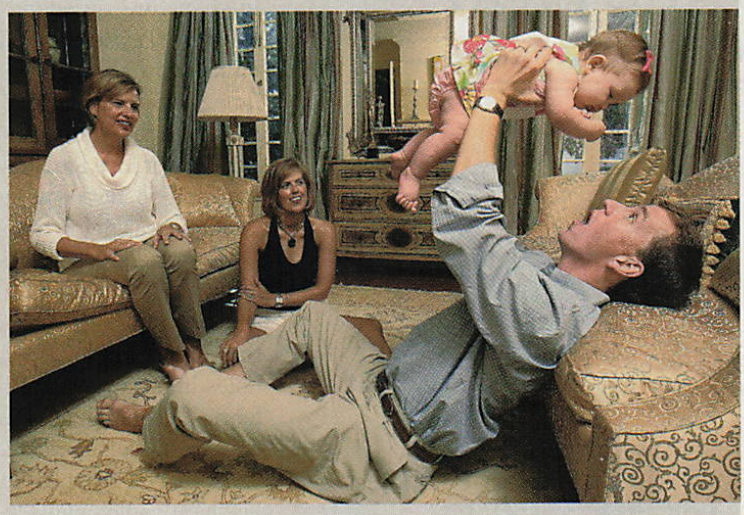




valuable player. "People today tend to say, 'Oh, Coop, he was the inferior athlete of the three [Manning] boys,' but I can tell you that wasn't the case," says Richard Montgomery, Cooper's friend since childhood and a former teammate at Newman. "Cooper might've been the most talented."

Among the colleges that recruited Cooper were Texas and Virginia, but he chose Ole Miss, undaunted by the expectations destined to be heaped on him. He knew he was good enough to contribute, and he knew that in the long run his father's heroic past at the school would have little to do with his own future there. He would succeed or fail on his own merit. He and Peyton made a pact to light up Oxford in a couple of years the way they had New Orleans. "I know one thing for certain," says Peyton. "Had Cooper played at Ole Miss, I'd have gone there too. The year he was a senior at Newman was the best time I ever had playing football. Playing in college with my brother was something we'd both dreamed about."





FAMILY CIRCLE Cooper (being doused by brothers, opposite) can no longer grip a ball like a Manning, but he has a sure hold on baby May (with Ellen, in black, and Olivia).

It wasn't until weeks after the football season, when Cooper was playing for Newman's basketball team, that he finally told Archie he didn't feel right. "My ball's gone dead," he said. "I can't spin it."

A shooting guard, he learned to adjust his shot and to dribble with his left hand, and he ended up averaging 12 points a game, remarkable considering how little control he had of his right hand. Behind the play of Randy Livingston, a *Parade* All-America and the co–National Player of the Year (with Jason Kidd), the Greenies won the 2A state championship for the second year in a row. Not wishing to miss a moment of the team's run at the title, Cooper waited until the season was over to seek medical attention. "I kept it a secret," he says of his condition, "because I thought if word got out, players for other teams would figure out how to defend me."

A New Orleans surgeon diagnosed the problem as damage to the ulnar nerve, which runs the length of the arm and controls sensation in the pinkie and ring fingers and part of the palm. Because this nerve travels over the tip of the elbow, it is easily damaged. Football players often injure theirs, usually when the elbow hits the ground or takes a helmet blow. Cooper's problem seemed easy to fix, and the operation went smoothly. That summer he played in the Louisiana high school all-star game in Baton Rouge, impressing fans with a couple of catches. But by the time August two-a-days began in Oxford, his condition hadn't improved. He was feeling as much pain and numbness as ever on his right side, and it was taking even more concentration to catch balls at practice.

"I got a hard break," he says today. "I mean, the one thing God gave me . . . the one asset I had . . . was my hands. And now my right hand is taken away, and I'm righthanded? I can't throw a football? Can barely catch a football? I can't shoot hoops? I mean, it was terrible."

An Ole Miss team doctor encouraged Archie to seek other opinions from specialists, so he and Cooper flew to Dallas in September 1992 and consulted with a neurosurgeon and an orthopedist at the Baylor Medical Center. Then they flew to Rochester, Minn., to meet with doctors at the Mayo Clinic, where Archie had been treated for a hyperthyroid condition when he was playing for the Vikings. "We ended up seeing a lot of different people, about six altogether, and everyone had a different opinion on how to treat Cooper," Archie says. "[The visit to Rochester] was a rough trip. Cooper had all these tests done, and they painted a grim picture. Still, he took it better than I did. I could've gotten real depressed had he not kept things loose."

A week later Peyton was scheduled to play for Newman in New Orleans. Ole Miss had an open week, so Cooper, his head freshly shaved like those of all the other freshman Rebel players, came in on Friday with some friends from Oxford. That afternoon Archie received a call from the Baylor Medical Center: Cooper needed spinal surgery and could never play football again. In fact, he never should have played, even as a child. Had he never played the game and been hit so hard, he might've lived out his life without experiencing any problem at all.

As frightened as Archie and Olivia were by the specter of spinal surgery, they understood that Cooper was lucky he had survived the pounding of high school football without serious injury. Archie recalled the blows Cooper had taken on his upper body when he'd caught passes over the middle and the licks he'd put on receivers when he played free safety. Any one of those collisions could have left him paralyzed.

After the game on Friday night, Archie and Olivia asked Peyton if he wanted to join them when they broke the news to Cooper. "I can't," he said, fighting back tears. "I'm sorry, but I just can't do it."

"Cooper cried when we told him," Archie says, "but for the most part he was a trouper. It was Peyton we really worried about. He was near depression. Peyton was a junior in high school, and he watched what his big brother was going through, and he didn't think life was fair at all."

Unable to face his brother and tell him how he felt, Peyton sat down and wrote him a letter. It was just after midnight on Saturday, and he hadn't slept much since hearing about the doctor's report the day before. "What I'd do to have you back again as a receiver I don't know," Peyton wrote in longhand. "But this is all part of growing up—learning to cope with change. I'll be

seeing you plenty, I know, but things will be different. I know other people have gone through losing their older brother or sister before, but I think me and you are different. We're not average. We're Coop and Peyt. We always have been and we always will be, thank God." At the end of the letter he told Cooper he loved him, then signed it, "Your bro and pal, Peyt."

When Cooper returned to Oxford, he made a point of attending football practice every afternoon. While the team was on the field, he went for long runs, then stood on the sideline and watched. Afterward he hung around the locker room. He'd played organized football since he was a fifth-grader in Minnesota, while his dad was with the Vikings, and football was what you did in the fall. Even though it had been reported in the news that he would never play again, Cooper still felt like a member of the team. Weeks went by. One day before practice senior defensive end Jack Muirhead approached him in the locker room. "What the hell are you doing here?" Cooper recalls Muirhead asking.

"What do you mean?" Cooper said.

"You should be out fishing, you should go play golf or something, go chase some girls," Muirhead said, laughing. "Instead you're in the locker room shooting the breeze with the guys before practice."

Unable to think of a response, Cooper said simply, "Oh." But he knew then that it was over. "I cut it off totally," he says. "I was like, It's more painful to go to practice than it is to keep away from it. And so I kept away from it."

The three-hour surgery on his spine was performed in New Orleans in the summer of 1993. When Cooper came to, he could barely move. His left leg was tingling, and he had no strength at all in his right leg. "I remember the back of his head was shaved, and there was a big, long incision," says Eli. "When I saw it, it hit me what he'd gone through. He needed a wheelchair and then a walker and a cane to get around. I try to picture myself in his situation—and to picture Peyton in his situation—and I'm telling you he dealt with it a thousand times better than either of us would have. He never complained. We never saw him cry. Cooper loved football as much as Peyton and I do, but he never let us know how much he was going to miss it."

He attended rehab sessions to learn how to walk again. When he attempted to get around without his walker or cane, he fell to the ground and skinned his knees. He tore holes in his jeans, and blood stained the fabric. "I couldn't tell I was falling," Cooper says. "I'd just get tired, and next thing you know I'd be lying there on the ground. I'd hear people saying, 'God, he's loaded.' I never told them any different."

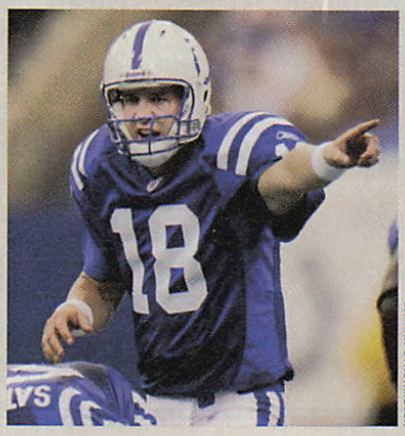
BEFORE SHE and Cooper were married, in 1999, Ellen Heidingsfelder wrote out a list of questions and had Cooper take her to see his doctor. There were times when Cooper's friends hugged him or slapped his back too hard, and his body went numb and he had to sit quietly for a while until the pain passed. It was a scary thing for Ellen to watch. Since the operation in '93, Cooper had undergone one more surgery, a cervical fusion. Even when he appeared to be hurting, he claimed to be feeling fine. When he returned from a visit to the doctor and Ellen asked how it had gone, he always said everything was O.K. His positive attitude seemed to preclude his sharing the hard truths about his health and long-term prognosis.

Is it a hereditary problem? was a question at the top of Ellen's list. No, said Donald Richardson, a neurosurgeon at Tulane University Medical Center. It was congenital.

Cooper on Peyton

The Colts star sized up by his favorite high school receiver

PEYTON'S HAVING his best year yet. He's far more patient than he's been in the past, and I think the Colts' defense, which is playing great, has had a lot to do with that. Peyton's no longer going into the opening kickoff thinking that if he doesn't hurry up and score and get the lead, his team is going to be in a hole. On third and long he's not scared to throw one away and punt. It's a luxury that he hasn't been given until this season.



DAMIAN STROHMEYER

BOUND FOR GLORY? Cooper sees Peyton as one of the alltime greats.

"Peyton has always been the leader of this team, aside from his rookie year, when he was trying to feel things out. People continue to make a big deal out of this kicker guy, [Mike] Vanderjagt, calling him out in January, as if Peyton is somehow different now. [After the Colts' 41–0 playoff loss to the New York Jets, Vanderjagt said Manning should show more emotion.] It's a bunch of manure, but if Vanderjagt wants to take credit for getting Peyton excited, then let him take credit.

"I think Peyton's got the potential to be one of the greatest quarterbacks of all time. I'd be surprised if he gets the MVP this season, though. When it comes to being recognized and receiving awards, Peyton is too often denied. People don't see him as the underdog. He's always been on top of the game, so people are always looking for someone new to be excited about. Maybe Peyton's style of play isn't hip enough to make the impression that a young, up-and-coming athlete does. However, I bet if you polled NFL coaches on the MVP, it wouldn't even be a contest. I bet you their vote would be Peyton. Same goes for the players.

"Archie called me the other day and said, 'I just got an interesting call from [Washington Redskins coach Steve] Spurrier and [quarterback] Patrick Ramsey.' This was after the Colts-Buccaneers game. The Redskins were playing Tampa Bay the next week. Spurrier is not one to dish out compliments, but he told Arch, 'We're watching this tape, and I just want to let you know that Peyton has the best feet, the best fundamentals. He is so good, I hope I can teach Patrick to be like that.'

"Take Peyton's performance against the Saints [on Sept. 28]. It's just not supposed to be that easy. I think Peyton could've had even bigger numbers [he went 20 of 25 for 314 yards and six touchdowns in a 55–21 Indianapolis victory], but it's not about that. It's about getting the win and moving on down the road. It was one of those evenings when everything he did worked. It was just Peyton's turn." —J.E.B.

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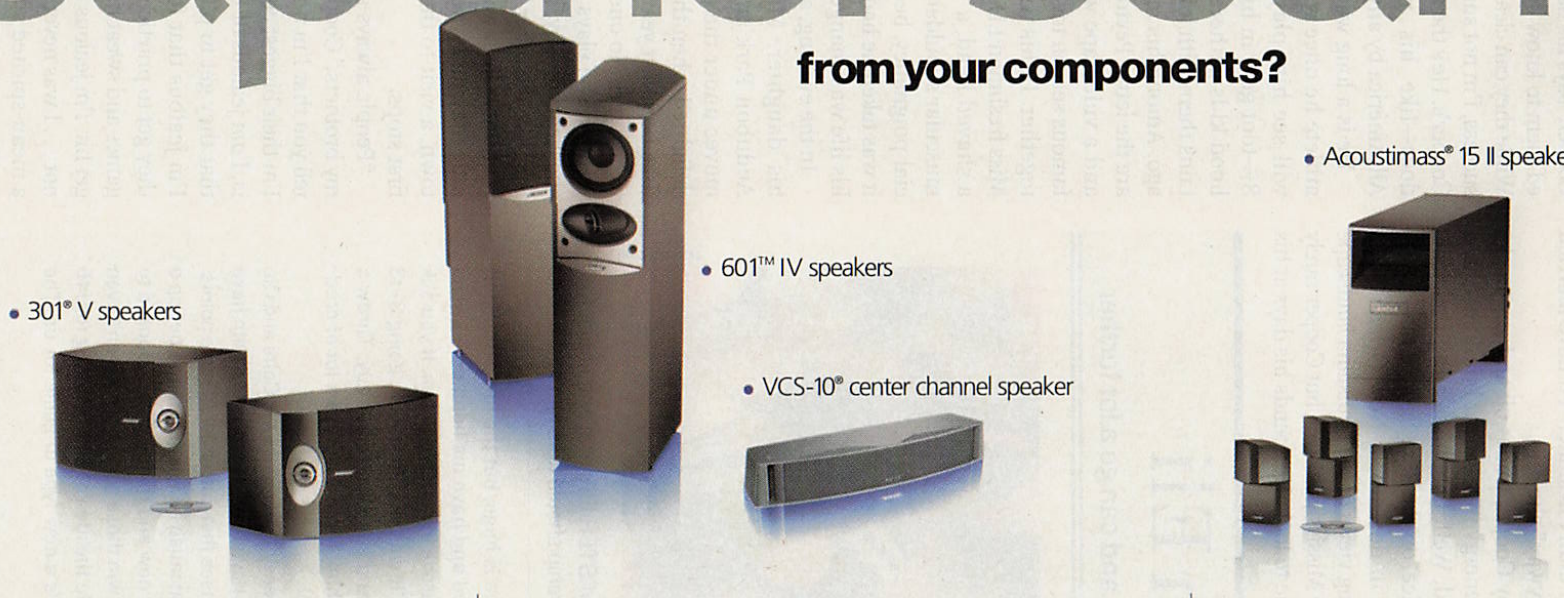

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Congenital, she learned, means you're born with it. *Hereditary* means you pass it down. Both Peyton and Eli tested negative for spinal stenosis. Only Cooper had to live out his life with the condition.

Is Cooper going to end up in a wheelchair one day? What can we do and what can we not do? Can we go waterskiing? What about snow skiing? What if we get in a car accident? If his head snaps back, will he be paralyzed?

Richardson reassured her: Cooper should live a good, long life, but he was at a higher risk for injury than other people, and he needed to be careful. No skiing of any kind. And he should avoid roughhousing.

After she and Cooper had been married for a while, somebody asked Ellen, "Suppose the doctor had said, 'It's more serious than Cooper has told you. He will he bound to a wheelchair by the time he's 40.' "

Ellen didn't hesitate. "I'd have married him anyway," she said.

Today Cooper trades oil and gas stocks for an energy investment boutique called Howard, Weil, Labouisse and Friedrichs. His office, on the 35th floor of the Energy Centre in downtown New Orleans, has sweeping views of the Louisiana landscape and the Mississippi River, but Cooper rarely has time to look. He spends his days at his desk watching the market on computer monitors and talking to clients on the telephone. When he gets up, it's usually to swing a golf club and vent nervous energy.

"I've talked to Archie and Olivia about Cooper," says his boss, Bill Walker. "I wanted them to know how good he is at his job. While they can clearly see Peyton's and Eli's success, I'm not sure they fully understand Cooper's. He's the absolute best at what he does—like his younger brothers, an All-America by any standard."

He is a long way from football and the athlete he once was. But some days you will see him playing basketball by the 8½-foot goal in his driveway, neighborhood kids gathered around as he entertains them with jokes he recalls from long ago. Among his most prized possessions are the letter Peyton wrote to him in 1992 and a videotape with highlights of their famous season together, their only season together. In his wallet he carries his Ole Miss freshman I.D. card showing him with a shaved head, a thick neck and broad, muscular shoulders. The photo has a special poignancy, because only weeks after it was taken he had to give up football and his life was changed forever.

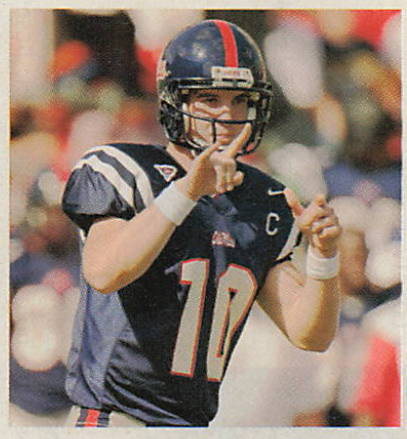
In the evening, after work, Cooper takes his daughter, May, in her stroller to Audubon Park and back, limping as he moves under the old leafy trees. He was delighted when the baby, his and Ellen's first, born last year on Dec. 10, turned out to be a girl. No one will ever ask her what position she plays or what jersey number she wears or why, if she didn't make it, she isn't like the other Mannings. At every opportunity Olivia and Archie drop by to see little May, and when Peyton and Eli are in town, a visit to their niece is one of their first stops.

"People always ask me if I'm jealous of my brothers," Cooper says. "My family will tell you that I'm not jealous at all and that I'm their biggest cheerleader. But the truth is, I *am* jealous of Peyton and Eli—jealous that they get to play football every week. I'm jealous that football's their job, and they get to practice and work out and play games and sweat hard and run and hit and get hit. I'm jealous of all that, sure. But I'm not . . . I was never jealous, I should say, in a mean-spirited sort of way. I'm their big brother, and I love them. No, if I'm jealous, it's jealous of all the fun they get to keep having. That's one thing about me: I always did like to have fun." □

Cooper on Eli

You've come a long way, baby brother, and can go a lot further

I THINK ELI has grown up a lot from last year to this year. Being a captain of the team, being a senior, he's with all these guys who came in with him as freshmen. He's very, very comfortable in his new role, in which he's being asked to do more than just be the quarterback. *[See page 157.]* He's having a ball. Winning makes it all fun. But it's a long season.



GARY BOGDON

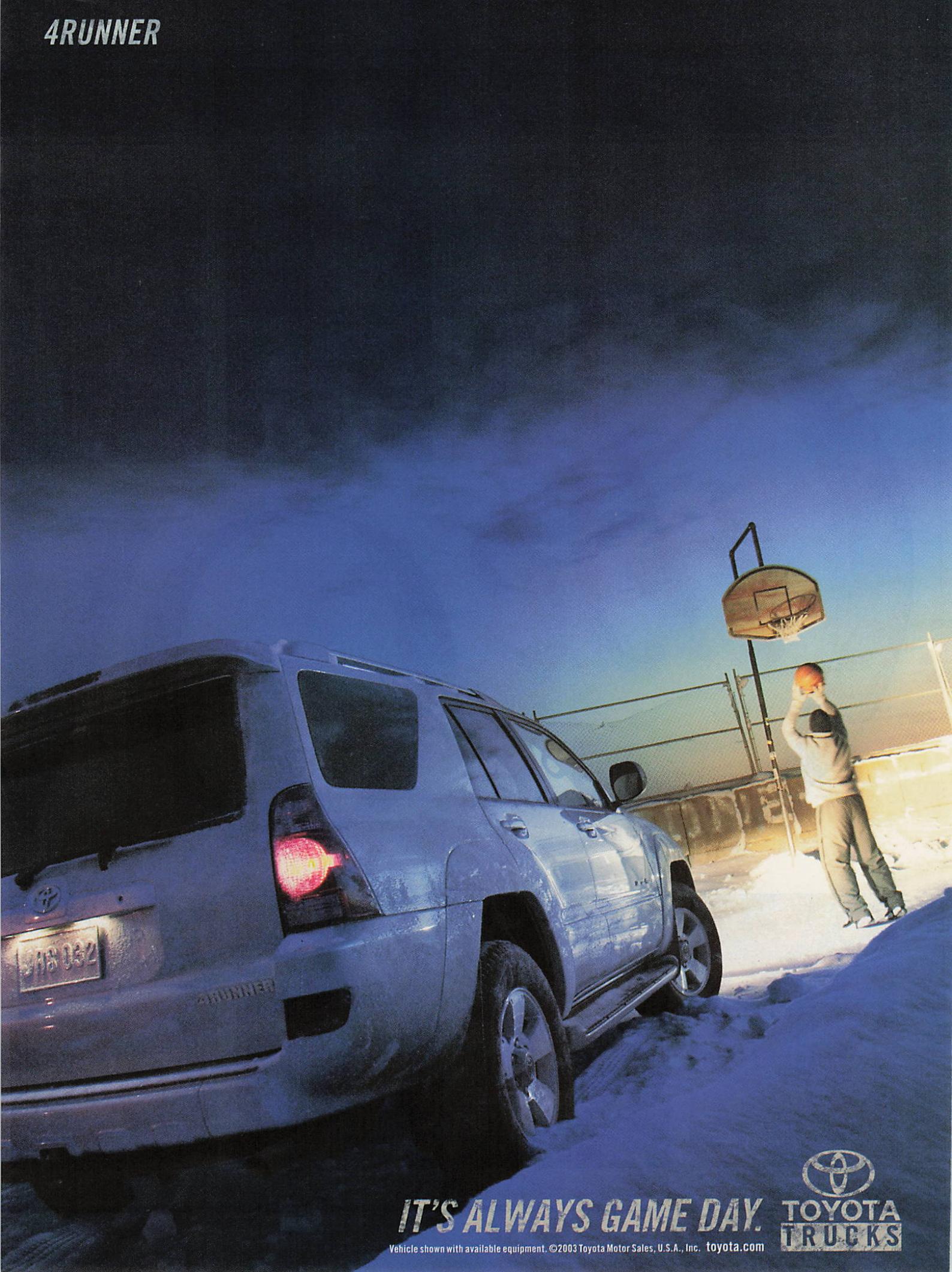
OLE MISTER Eli's arm and knack for leadership should take him to the NFL.

"I don't think Eli has tapped his full potential, though. He has a very live arm, and I think he's got a big upside. He has a chance to be a really, really good quarterback. But when people say, 'I think Eli's going to be the best [of all the Mannings],' they're full of it. He might end up being great, but I don't see how you can be better than Peyton.

"He'll mature. The jump from high school to college is huge, but the jump from college to pro is even bigger. Eli's going to be wild-eyed and have his head on a swivel next year. I think experience and playing games will prove invaluable to him. If you ask Peyton what helped him most as a pro, he'll tell you it was that first year, going 3–13 and having his coach, Jim Mora, stand behind him and say, 'You're our guy. Throw a hundred interceptions, and I'm sticking with you.' I think Mora deserves a lot of credit for that.

"Eli hasn't had a real bad day yet. It's funny, but it's easy to compare the Colts and Ole Miss. It's remarkable how similar their ups and downs have been. Historically, both have had offenses that could put up a lot of points and defenses that surrendered *more* points. The last couple of years on offense Eli has panicked because he felt if he didn't put up a lot of points, he was letting the team down. But every now and then you're supposed to sneak in a 9–6 win. Until this year Ole Miss just didn't win those games; we weren't even in them. If we had six points, the other team had 48. So the idea of Eli's throwing for 145 yards [on Oct. 25] and beating Arkansas 19–7—that's a new type of game for us. The team is just better.

"I don't care how good you are at quarterback, if the team is not playing well, the individual highlights are going to be minimal. The ball has bounced right for Ole Miss the last couple of games, but Eli is quick to admit that he isn't on a team that's so good that all he has to do is show up. He'll have to play his best every week if he expects to win." —J.E.B.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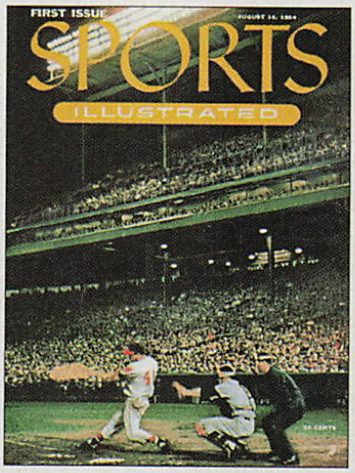
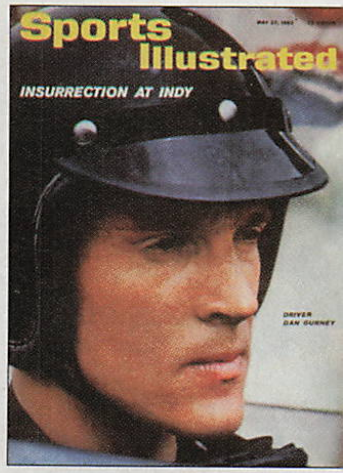
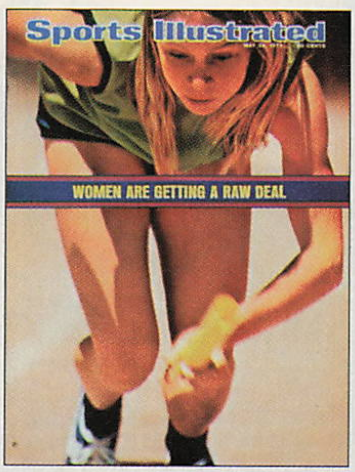
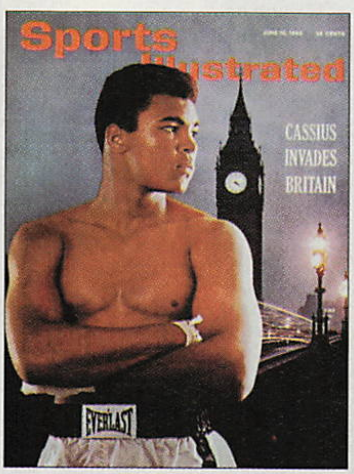
Vehicle shown with available equipment. ©2003 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. toyota.com

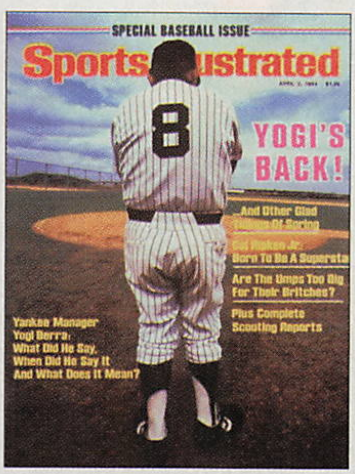
The Cov

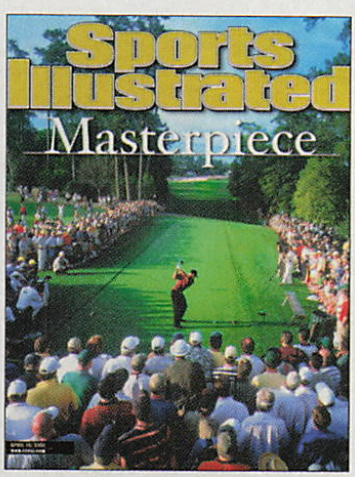

FIRST ISSUE
SPORTS
ILLUSTRATED

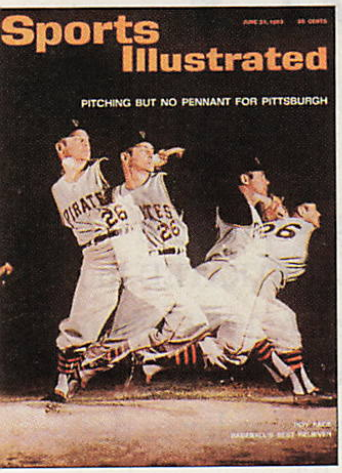

Sports Illustrated
INSURRECTION AT INDY
DRIVER
DAN GURNEY

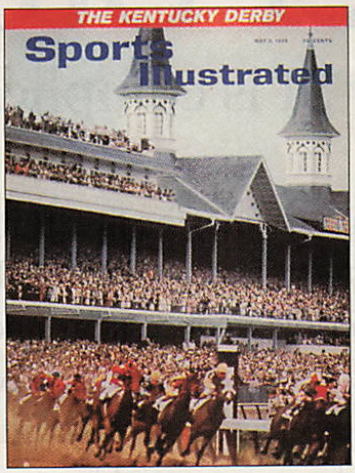

Sports Illustrated
WOMEN ARE GETTING A RAW DEAL

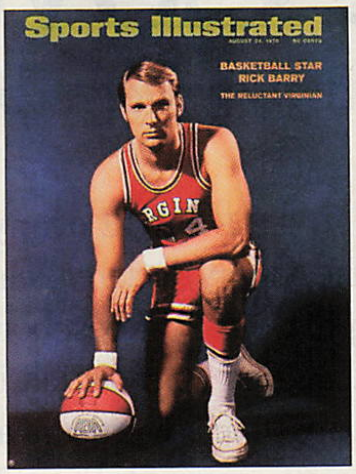

Sports Illustrated
CASSIUS
INVADES
BRITAIN
EVERLAST

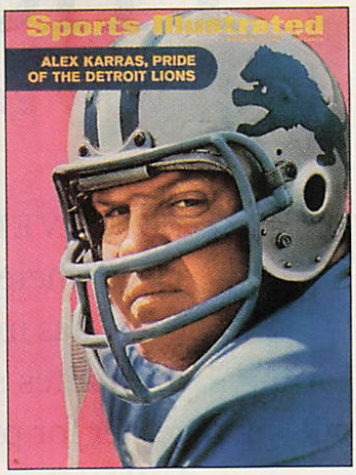

SPECIAL BASEBALL ISSUE
Sports Illustrated
8
YOGI'S
BACK!
And Other Glad
Signs Of Spring
Are The Umps Too Big
For Their Britches?
Plus Complete
Scouting Reports
Yankee Manager
Yogi Berra:
What Did He Say,
When Did He Say It
And What Does It Mean?


Sports Illustrated
Masterpiece









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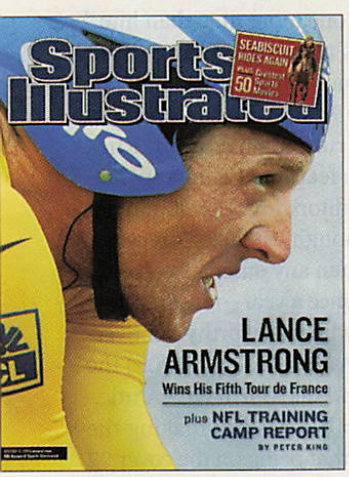


FROM PRESIDENTS TO precedents, from Le Mans to LeBron, from lions to Tiger, the cover of SPORTS ILLUSTRATED has become a cultural icon. In the next 50 pages, answers to questions such as: Who's been on the cover the most? Which sport? And: What's up with all the dogs?

The Cover Story

Why getting *covered* by SI is complicated

THE COVER IS THE FACE of any magazine, the first thing readers see, the place where the editors declare their intentions. At SPORTS ILLUSTRATED the cover has inspired keen interest bordering on obsession since late 1953, when Sid James struggled over which images to use on the two issues he was putting together for prospective advertisers and selected sports editors in order to determine whether the country wanted or needed a sports weekly at all. The cover photograph on the first dummy was a shot of the crowd at Oklahoma's rainy November football victory over Nebraska. The absence of football action from the frame underlined the basic SPORTS ILLUSTRATED proposition: that a new leisure class with a growing interest in recreation was a sports magazine market waiting to happen. (This image eventually became the third of SI's 152 college football covers.) The cover of the second dummy was a golfer, framed by spectators, teeing off at the 16th hole at Cypress Point, and inside the magazine, in addition to the golf piece, was an eclectic mix of stories on hunting, fishing, snorkeling, bowling and Ping-Pong (even a piece on 15th-century jousting art) as well as baseball, motor sports and horse racing. In both cases, the cover images took the spectators' point of view and evoked the pleasure of watching sports.

BRIM SHOT This dummy was recycled.

AS YOU will discover in the following pages, part of SI's ongoing celebration of its 50th anniversary, cover subjects can be subdivided into many categories, both metaphysical and statistical. But rather than wondering how many angels can dance on the head of a pin, try to think about how many times Angels have made the cover (10 times for the L.A./California/Anaheim Angels, two times for jockey Angel Cordero and another four for Elle Macpherson). The best news is that every cover is reprinted here, all 2,548 of them. That covers the waterfront (OCEAN SAILING, 1966), covers more ground than Jim Brown (SECRETS OF A FULLBACK, 1960) and covers a multitude of sins (Dennis Rodman in a stud collar, 1995).

Any way you look at it, an SI cover becomes an almost instant pop icon (often shot with a Nikon) that also means something to athletes. "When I was on the cover the first time my senior year at Penn State, my first reaction was shock," says Joe Jurevicius, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' receiver who also appeared on the Super Bowl cover last February. "Since I was old enough to read the words *Sports* and *Illustrated*, it was something I dreamed about. I was the kid who had a subscription at home, but if I was in a doctor's or a dentist's office, I'd steal their copies." Bucs rookie quarterback Chris Simms has a variation on that same theme: "It's thrilling to see yourself on the cover. It always brings a smile to my face when I remind my dad [former New York Giants quarterback Phil Simms] that I've been on the cover [twice], one more time than him."

Being No. 1 is also a recurring cover theme, and that's not counting the infamous 1972 cover when Walter Iooss's photo of Miami Dolphins running backs Jim Kiick and Larry Csonka featured Csonka surreptitiously flashing his middle finger. The editors missed it, but a riot of howling letters filled them in soon enough. In fact, SI receives more comments about its cover choices than any other subject, and write-in campaigns are mounted at least once a year—most recently for Iowa State wrestler Cael Sanderson, who was worthy but overtaken by difficult hockey news (THE DEATH OF A FAN, 2002) the week he won his 159th straight match and his fourth NCAA title.

Of course there are some readers who believe that making the cover is not necessarily a good thing. Not that being on the cover 22 times has adversely affected Jack Nicklaus. Nor did Michael Jor-

dan, who hit the cover trifecta by being photographed while playing basketball, golf and baseball, suffer from his 49 appearances. Still, the so-called SI cover jinx is part of America's sporting mindscape, the great unscripted drama, wherein strange things have happened with uncomfortable frequency since the early days of the magazine. Like life itself, a weekly magazine is largely about timing, and in that era of primitive color photo technology, the cover had to be sent to the printer six weeks before publication. Eighteen-year-old Jill Kinmont, a U.S. ski champion, was on the Jan. 31, 1955, cover. (SI is dated five days ahead of the day it goes on sale.) Tragically, during a run on Jan. 30, Kinmont lost control, struck a tree and was paralyzed.

The jinx as we understand it today is about winning and losing, not life and death, and it has much less to do with paranoia than probability. Both teams and individuals tend to make the cover when they're doing exceptionally well, and no one does exceptionally well forever, so the odds that a cover subject will return to earth—and a more normal level of performance—are great. Thus the perception of a causal relationship: the jinx. We don't believe in it, but it contributes to the iconic nature of SI covers.

At SI, it is the managing editor who has the final call on the cover, and the eight men who have held the job over the last 50 years agree that the cover choice is most often about honoring character and achievement in sport. It is also about not making mistakes. For example, in October 1988 SI jumped on the late-breaking story of Ben Johnson's positive drug test after he'd finished first in the 100 meters in Seoul and, on deadline (and faster than you can spell S-t-a-n-o-z-o-l-o-l) kept the original shot of Johnson in motion but changed the cover line from WHOOSH! to BUSTED!

The covers always have had as much rhyme (PITT IS IT!, THE DRIVE FOR FIVE and George Foreman's BLAST FROM THE PAST) as reason (Notre Dame quarterback Tony Rice has outcovered home run king Hank Aaron 4–3). But then, SI covers have always been closer to snapshots of their week than oil paintings of their era. The covers were simpler in the 1950s, when America apparently had more time for HUNTING THE CHUKAR PARTRIDGE (1955) or musing over the YALE-DARTMOUTH GAME PREVIEW (1956). Now there are more action photos, more text, more punctuation and small inset photos—sort of covers-within-a-cover, like the pictures-within-the-picture on your 36-incher in the den.

IN THE SWING Test cover for SI debut.

THERE IS NOT a greater student of SI covers than Scott Smith, who has put together a collection of autographed covers that includes, by his calculation, 94.8% of the 2,548 covers the magazine has run to date. It is thought that the relentless Smith will stop at nothing, which is almost true. In 1988 he made a trip to L.A., hunting for SI cover subjects. One of his stops was the hospital bed of bridge expert Charles Goren, who had appeared on SI's cover three times, in 1957, '60 and '64. Smith waited, magazines and Sharpie in hand, murmuring "Charles? . . . Charles?" But he swears he did nothing as brazen as shake the frail and ailing man who was on a ventilator and enmeshed in a thicket of tubes, and who did not awaken to the strange voice in his room.

Goren never did sign for Smith, but otherwise it was an outstanding trip. Rafer Johnson, the great decathlete who worked with the Special Olympics, graciously signed in his office in Santa Barbara. When Smith went to what he thought was 1976 Olympic decathlon champion Bruce Jenner's home, his ex-wife explained over the intercom that "when he divorced me, he lost the house." She did, however, give Smith Jenner's new phone number. Smith called, and Jenner invited him over. They hung out, drank beer and took pictures with Jenner's gold medal, and Smith walked off with signed covers. He also located a future governor of California at the gym, pumping iron, not hands, as he would 13 years later, and nailed his autograph. Houston McTear, the world's fastest man for a nanosecond in the late 1970s, was more problematic. McTear was homeless, sleeping most nights under the Santa Monica pier. Smith went to a van serving food to homeless people to see if the sprinter had stopped by for a free breakfast, but he hadn't, so Smith offered a few men who *were* there $10 each for information. The men went off and, 30 minutes later, returned with McTear in tow.

Smith recalled this trip while sitting in the basement of his northern New Jersey home where his signed covers are catalogued by sport, alphabetized, placed in plastic folders and stored on shelves. Several thousand more unsigned copies are piled in his garage. Off the top of his head he can name the Soviet runner who is shaking hands with Frank Shorter on a 1970 cover (Leonid Mikitenko) and the color of the golf shirt Ohio State defensive tackle Dan (Big Daddy) Wilkinson wore for his cover shot in 1995 (blue). Smith works in sales for a company that restructures debt, but since receiving his first SI subscription at 13 from his grandmother, getting covers signed has been what he really does. And each week he judges the book by its cover: easy signs, hard signs.

Smith's is a Sisyphean task. As soon as he gets his latest cover signed or tracks down an autograph he has waited a decade or more to nail, a new issue arrives in his mailbox. (No Greek mythological figure has graced the cover, but four football players from Athens, Georgia, have.) Smith embraces the challenge, although in the age of the Internet his research has become less daunting. Sometimes it takes money—Smith bought a signed 1967 Roberto Clemente cover on eBay for $900 in 2000, although he refuses to pay the $750 per signature he says Mark McGwire charges.

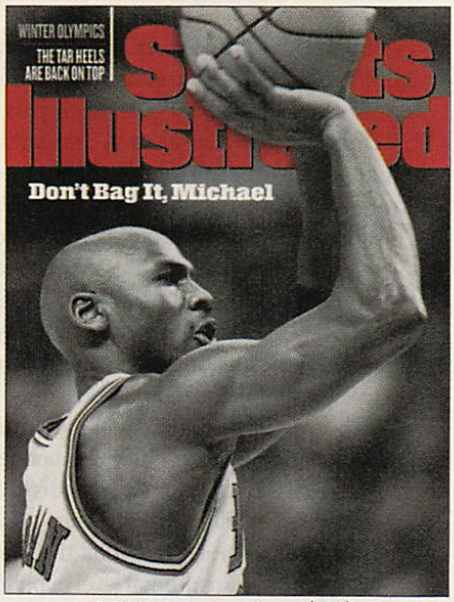
Smith estimates his SI collection is worth over a million dollars, a reminder that a picture can be worth more than 1,000 words . . . if it is autographed by Ali, Nicklaus or even Dewey Buck, the Oklahoma trombone player who made it in 1954. Smith says his obsession has never been primarily about money. "This is just a blast, seeing who's on the cover and then getting it signed."

Most readers, however, simply want to see who made the cover, and that choice can resonate—as the late Charles Goren might have said—in spades.

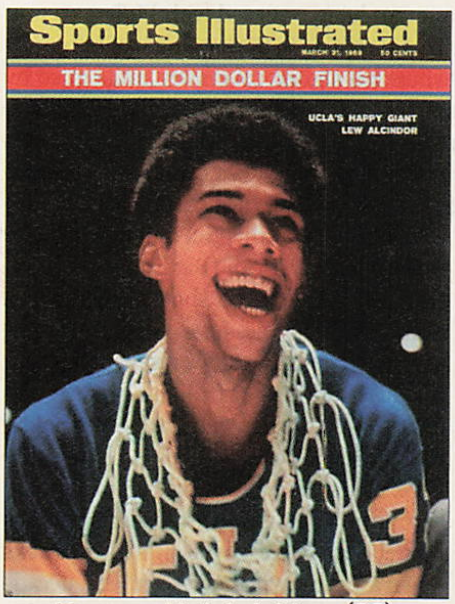
If we get it right. *—Terry McDonell*

the List

With SI's best faces forward, here is the magazine's Top 10*—the athletes who've been on the most covers, and all the contenders for the crown. To see all the covers of your favorites, go to SI.com/covers

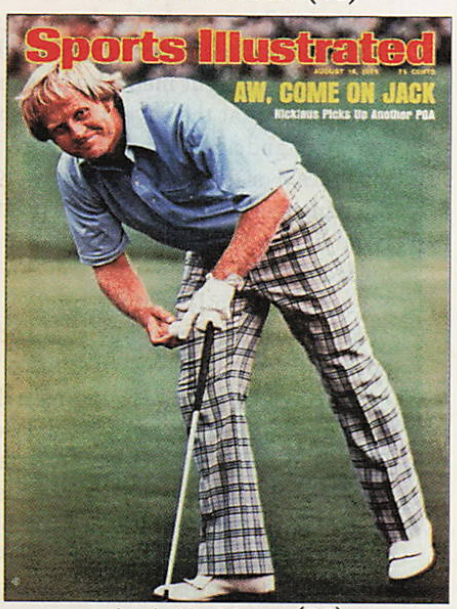


Michael Jordan (49)

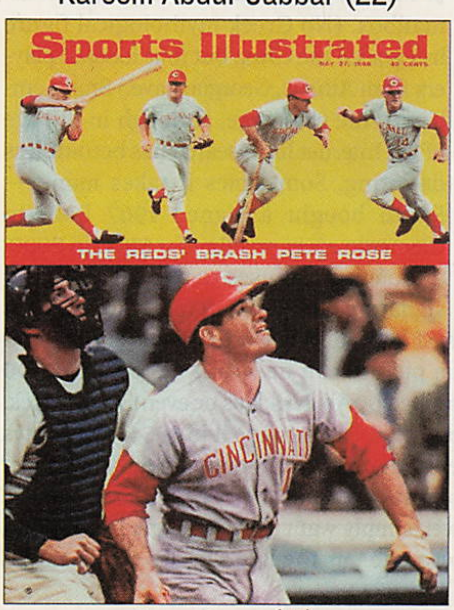


Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (22)

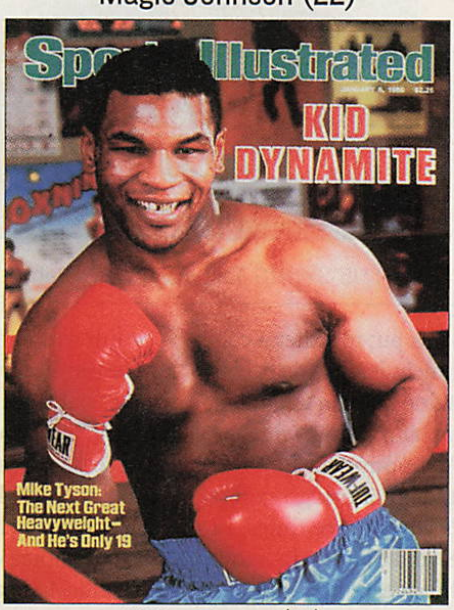
Magic Johnson (22)



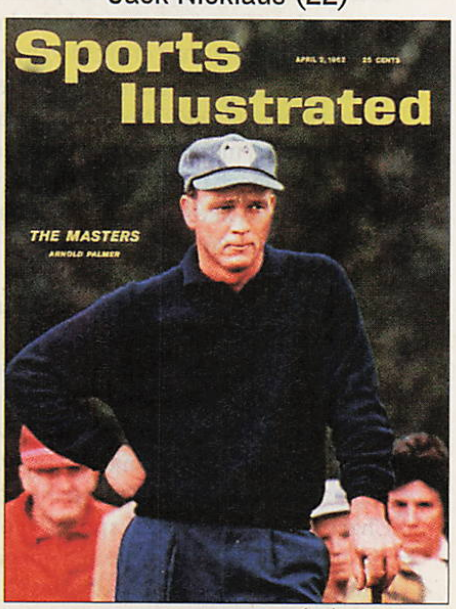
Jack Nicklaus (22)



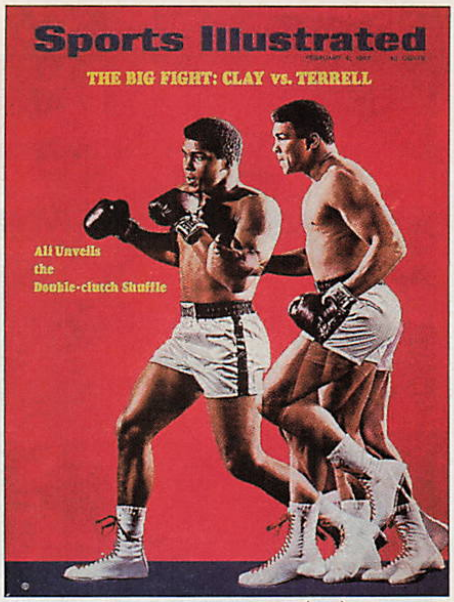
Pete Rose (15)



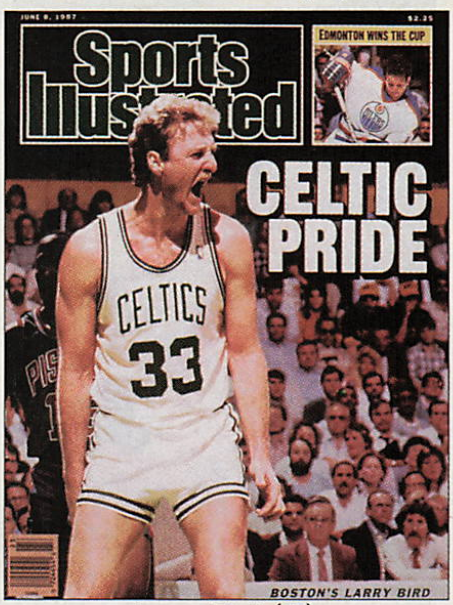
Mike Tyson (15)



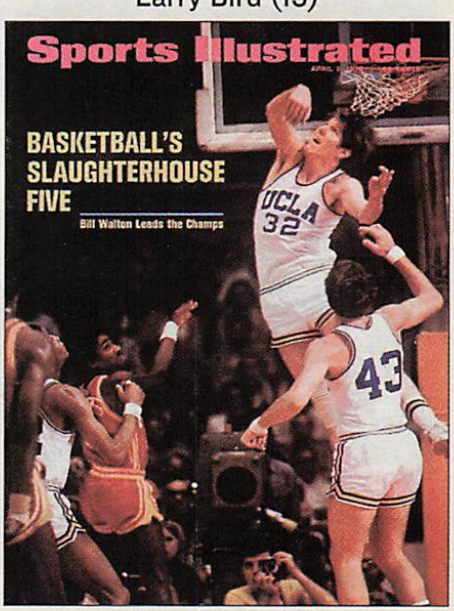
Arnold Palmer (14)



Muhammad Ali (37)



Larry Bird (15)



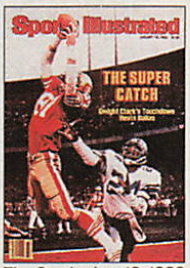
Bill Walton (14)

> the all-star cast

Here are the magazine's MVPs (most visible players) over the past 50 years, including all the subjects who have made a minimum of three cover appearances

Michael Jordan 49
Muhammad Ali 37
Kareem Abdul-Jabbar.. 22
Magic Johnson 22
Jack Nicklaus..... 22
Larry Bird..... 15
Pete Rose..... 15
Mike Tyson..... 15
Arnold Palmer 14
Bill Walton 14
Mickey Mantle..... 13
Patrick Ewing..... 12
Wayne Gretzky 12
Sugar Ray Leonard..... 12
Joe Montana..... 12
Tiger Woods..... 12
John Elway 11
Emmitt Smith 11
Sonny Liston..... 10
Shaquille O'Neal..... 10
Kobe Bryant 9
Marvelous Marvin Hagler 9
Dan Marino..... 9
Willie Mays 9
Mark McGwire 9
O.J. Simpson 9
Ted Williams..... 9
Jimmy Connors 8
Roberto Duran 8
Ken Griffey Jr..... 8
Reggie Jackson..... 8
Joe Namath 8
Floyd Patterson 8
Bill Russell 8
Wilt Chamberlain 7
Julius Erving..... 7
George Foreman..... 7
Joe Frazier..... 7
John McEnroe 7
Jim Ryun..... 7
Darryl Strawberry..... 7
Herschel Walker..... 7
Charles Barkley 6
Johnny Bench 6
Terry Bradshaw 6
Roger Clemens..... 6
Tony Dorsett..... 6
Larry Holmes 6
Evander Holyfield..... 6
Bo Jackson..... 6
Derek Jeter..... 6
Carl Lewis..... 6
Jim McMahon 6
Gary Player..... 6
Cal Ripken Jr..... 6
David Robinson 6
Dennis Rodman 6
Ralph Sampson 6
Fran Tarkenton..... 6
Tom Watson 6
Steve Young 6
Troy Aikman 5
Lance Armstrong 5
Bjorn Borg..... 5
George Brett 5
Lou Brock 5
Billy Casper..... 5
Eric Dickerson 5
Brett Favre..... 5
Dwight Gooden..... 5
John Havlicek..... 5
Bobby Hull..... 5
Randy Johnson 5
Sandy Koufax 5
Karl Malone..... 5
Moses Malone 5
Billy Martin 5
Stan Musial..... 5
Bobby Orr 5
Walter Payton..... 5
Scottie Pippen 5
Deion Sanders 5
Mike Schmidt 5
Tom Seaver 5
Sammy Sosa 5
Michael Spinks..... 5
Lee Trevino 5
Kurt Warner 5
Marcus Allen..... 4
Eddie Arcaro 4
Arthur Ashe..... 4
Rick Barry 4
Yogi Berra 4
Rod Carew..... 4
Gary Carter 4
Steve Cauthen 4
Larry Csonka..... 4
Mary Decker Slaney..... 4
Doug Flutie 4
A.J. Foyt..... 4
Franco Harris 4
Thomas Hearns 4
Gordie Howe 4
Ingemar Johansson..... 4
Al Kaline..... 4
Jason Kidd 4
Bob Knight..... 4
Mario Lemieux 4
Elle Macpherson..... 4
Eddie Mathews..... 4
Denny McLain..... 4
Jerry Rice 4
Tony Rice..... 4
Brooks Robinson 4
Nolan Ryan 4
Bart Starr..... 4
Jim Taylor 4
Joe Theismann..... 4
Y.A. Tittle 4
Johnny Unitas 4
Al Unser..... 4
Ken Venturi 4
Maury Wills..... 4
Hank Aaron..... 3
Andre Agassi..... 3
Ernie Banks..... 3
Carmen Basilio..... 3
Rocky Bleier..... 3
Barry Bonds 3
Christie Brinkley..... 3
Bear Bryant..... 3
Earl Campbell 3
Steve Carlton 3
George Chuvalo 3
Gerry Cooney 3
Bob Cousy..... 3
Dave Cowens 3
Randall Cunningham.... 3
Anthony Davis..... 3
Dave DeBusschere..... 3
Augie Donatelli..... 3
Ken Dryden 3
Don Drysdale 3
Leo Durocher 3
Phil Esposito..... 3
Chris Evert..... 3
Carlton Fisk..... 3
Walt Frazier..... 3
Roman Gabriel 3
Rich Gannon..... 3
Kevin Garnett 3
Steve Garvey..... 3
Kirk Gibson 3
Charles Goren..... 3
Steffi Graf 3
Florence Griffith Joyner .3
Dick Groat..... 3
Elvin Hayes..... 3
Rickey Henderson 3
Orel Hershiser..... 3
Paul Hornung 3
Desmond Howard..... 3
Kathy Ireland..... 3
Hale Irwin 3
Allen Iverson..... 3
Phil Jackson..... 3
Keyshawn Johnson..... 3
Rafer Johnson 3
Bert Jones..... 3
Jackie Joyner-Kersee... 3
Jean-Claude Killy..... 3
Bernie Kosar..... 3
Craig Krenzel 3
Greg LeMond 3
Vince Lombardi..... 3
Jerry Lucas..... 3
Danny Manning 3
Peyton Manning..... 3
Pete Maravich..... 3
Tommy McDonald..... 3
Stan Mikita 3
Joe Morgan..... 3
Chuck Muncie..... 3
Dale Murphy..... 3
Hakeem Olajuwon 3
Gary Payton..... 3
Sam Perkins 3
Gaylord Perry 3
Mike Piazza..... 3
Kirby Puckett 3
Willis Reed..... 3
Frank Robinson 3
Larry Robinson..... 3
Rumeal Robinson..... 3
Alex Rodriguez 3
Babe Ruth 3
Pete Sampras..... 3
Frank Shorter..... 3
Monica Seles 3
Billy Sims..... 3
Ozzie Smith..... 3
Sam Snead 3
Mark Spitz..... 3
Ken Stabler 3
Willie Stargell 3
Casey Stengel..... 3
George Steinbrenner.... 3
Isiah Thomas..... 3
David Thompson..... 3
Cheryl Tiegs 3
Alan Trammell..... 3
Wes Westrum 3
Sidney Wicks 3
Jay Williams..... 3
Ricky Williams 3
James Worthy..... 3
Carl Yastrzemski 3

top 10 photographers



The Catch, Jan. 18, 1982

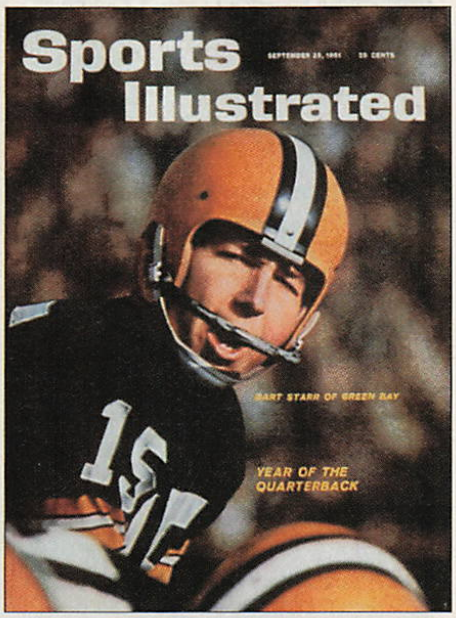
WALTER IOOSS JR. (left).. 229
Neil Leifer 169
Heinz Kluetmeier..... 119
Manny Millan 115
John G. Zimmerman 103
John Biever 102
Peter Read Miller..... 90
James Drake..... 89
John Iacono..... 80
Ronald C. Modra 64

SEE THE FULL LIST ON PAGE 153

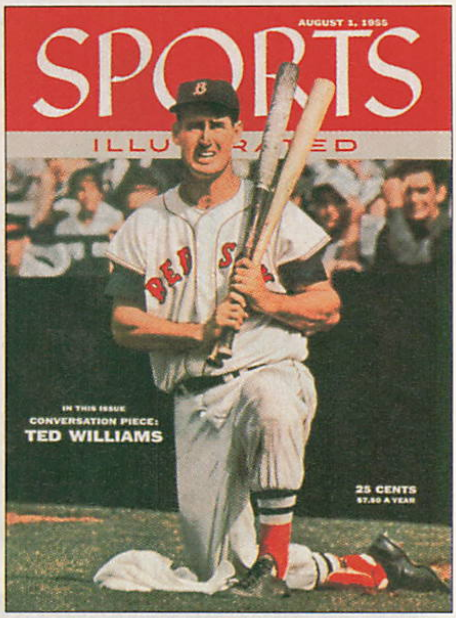
* *Here and on the pages that follow, athletes incidental to the main image were not included in the count.*

> Most Covers by Sport

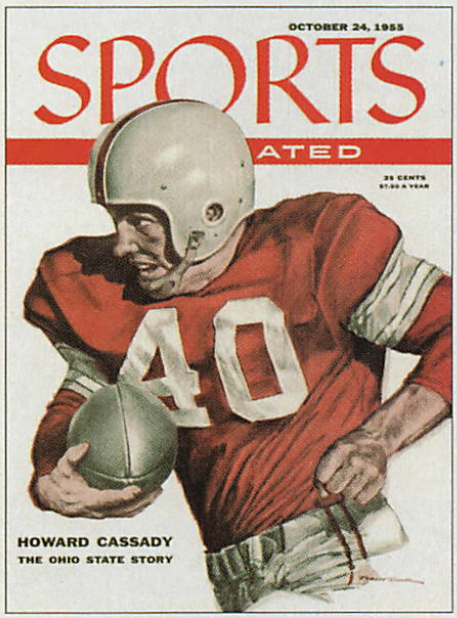
For SI's purposes, they're *all* good sports—some are just more popular than others. And in case you're wondering, bridge made the cover three times (below)



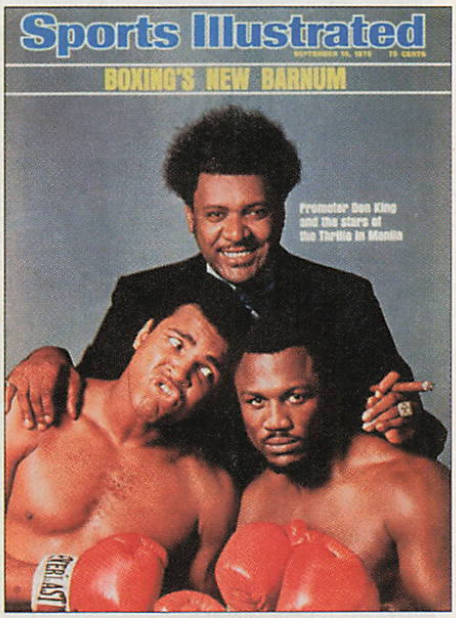
#1 PRO FOOTBALL (511)



#2 BASEBALL (502)



#6 COLLEGE FOOTBALL (152)

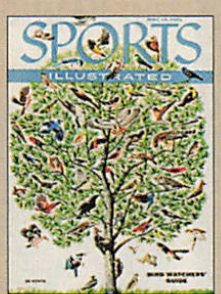


#7 BOXING (134)

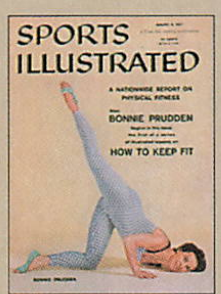
#8 TRACK AND FIELD (99)

> sport or not sport?

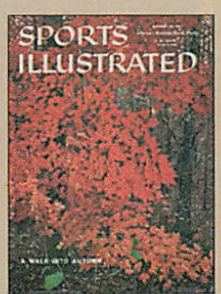
It says SPORTS on the cover, but...



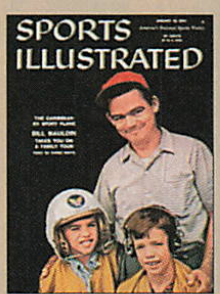
BIRD-WATCHING
May 16, 1955



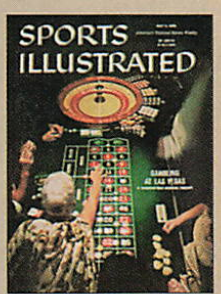
FITNESS
Aug. 5, 1957



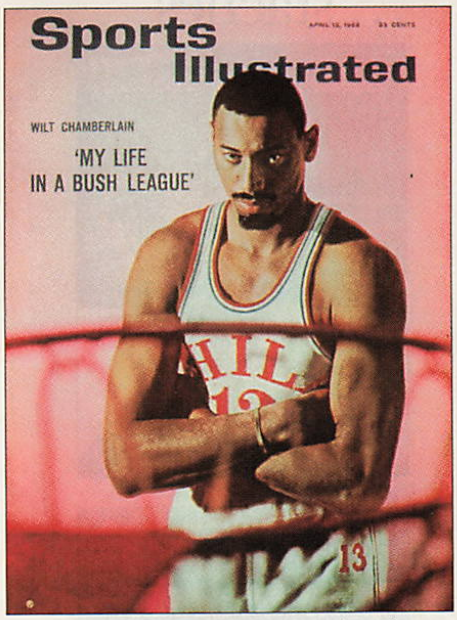
AUTUMN WALKS
Oct. 28, 1957



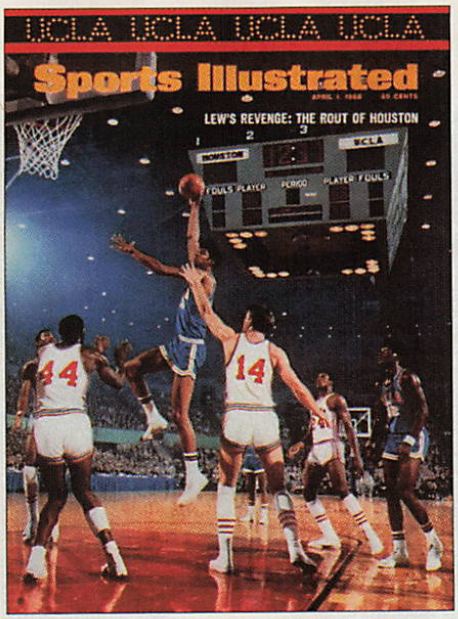
ISLAND HOPPING
Jan. 13, 1958



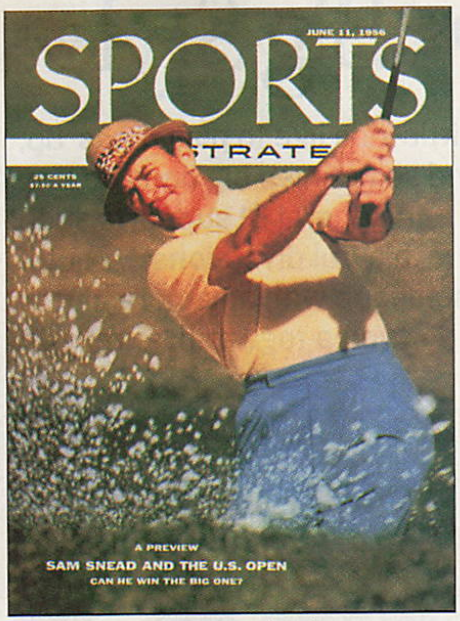
GAMBLING
May 11, 1959



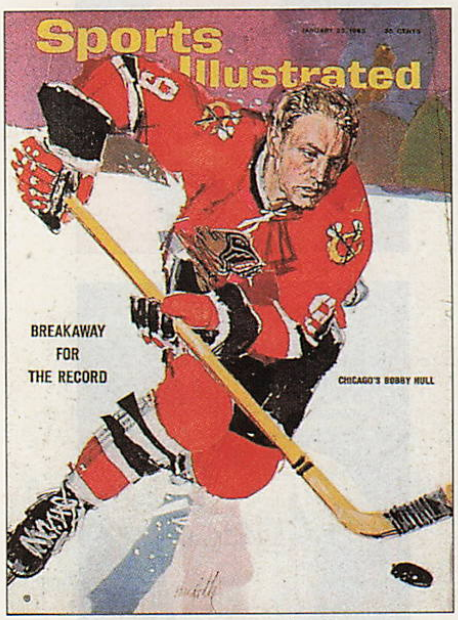
#3 PRO BASKETBALL (295)



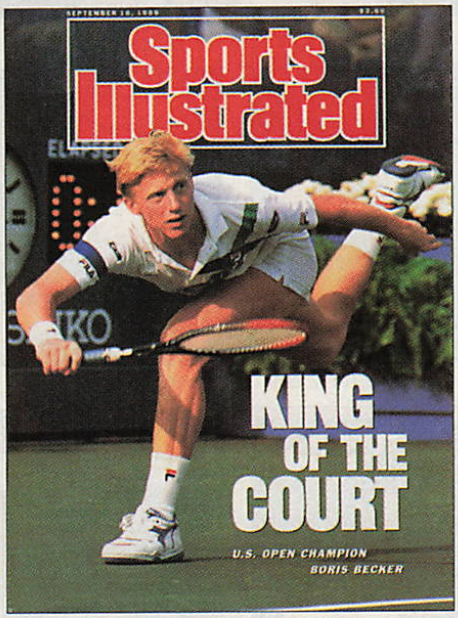
#4 COLLEGE BASKETBALL (155)



#5 GOLF (154)



#9 HOCKEY (83)

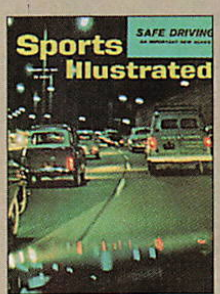


#10 TENNIS (77)

> wide world of...

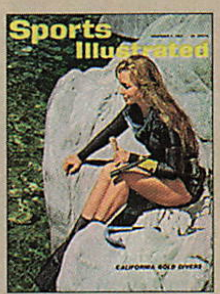
Here are all the other sports we've covered (on the cover) at least twice

Horse Racing	54
Skiing	44
Auto Racing	40
Swimming	22
Boating	21
Figure Skating	13
Fishing	13
Hunting	12
Soccer	12
Speed Skating	10
Cycling	8
Gymnastics	8
Diving (Ocean)	7
Dog Shows	7
Horse Shows	5
Surfing	5
Cards	4
Gambling	4
Skydiving	3
Sportscasting	3
Archery	2
Ballooning	2
Bowling	2
Chess	2
Diving (Pool)	2
Wrestling	2



NIGHT DRIVING
Jan. 30, 1961

CHESS
Aug. 7, 1961



GOLD DIVING
Nov. 5, 1962

VACATIONS
Jan. 21, 1963

CRUISING
May 13, 1963

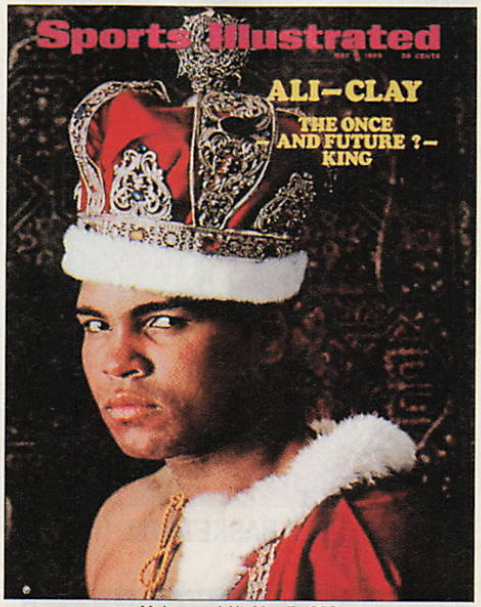
BRIDGE
Feb. 17, 1964

> Big Style ... costumes

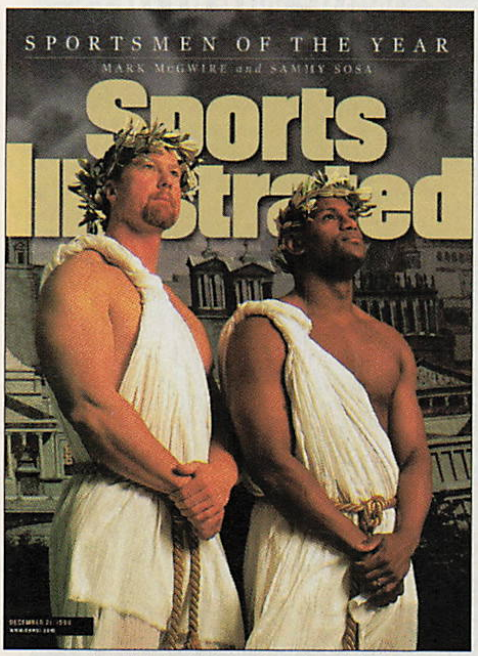
Little kids like to play dress-up, and sometimes big ones do too. In general SI supports such playful diversions . . . but if someone with a camera hands you a toga and laurel, run

Lee Trevino, June 9, 1969

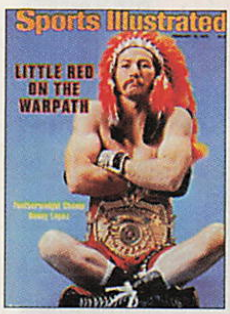
Chris Evert, Dec. 20, 1976



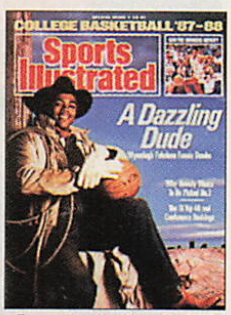
Muhammad Ali, May 5, 1969



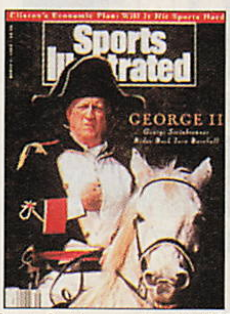
Mark McGwire & Sammy Sosa, Dec. 21, 1998



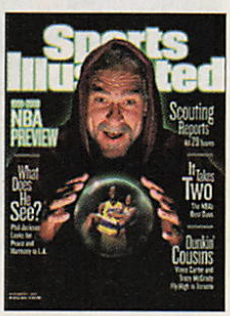
Danny Lopez, Feb. 12, 1979



Fennis Dembo, Nov. 18, 1987

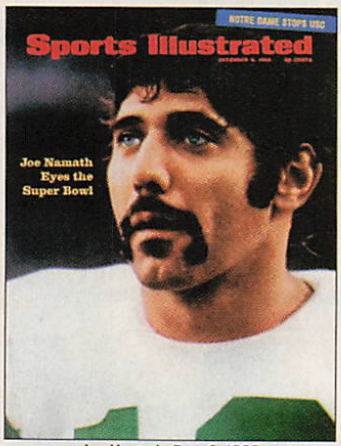


George Steinbrenner, March 1, 1993

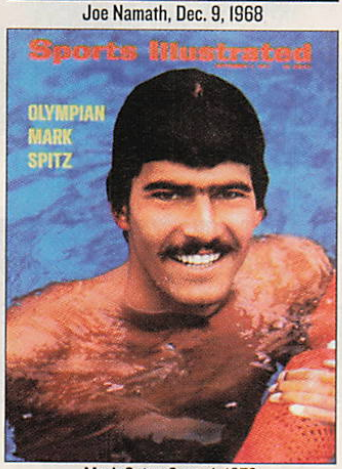


Phil Jackson, Nov. 1, 1999

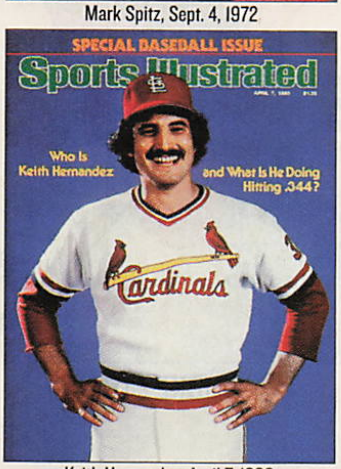
...'staches



Joe Namath, Dec. 9, 1968



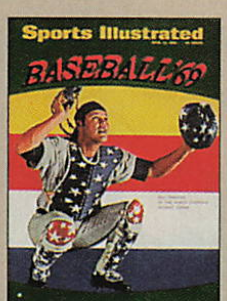
Mark Spitz, Sept. 4, 1972



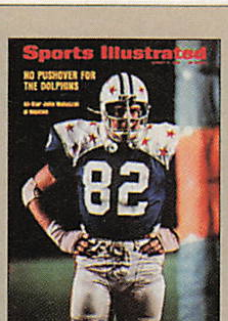
Keith Hernandez, April 7, 1980

> stars and stripes

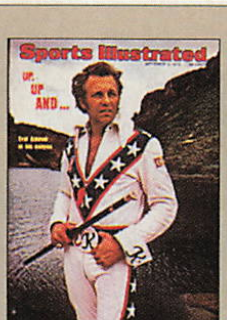
Run it up the flagpole and see who salutes . . . or hoots



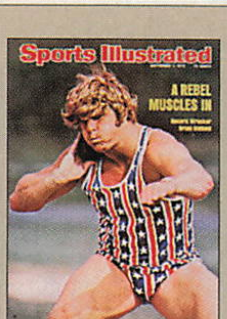
Bill Freehan, April 14, 1969



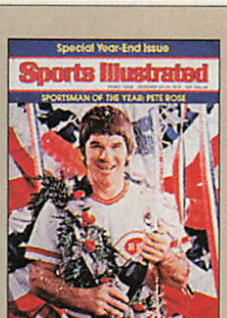
John Matuszak, Aug. 6, 1973



Evel Knievel, Sept. 2, 1974

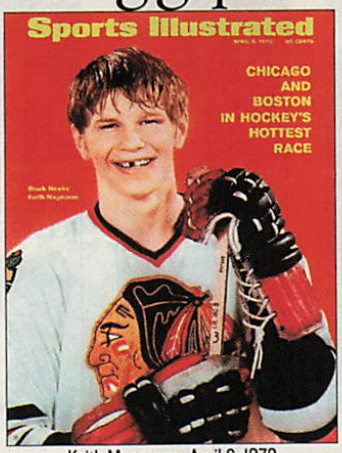


Brian Oldfield, Sept. 1, 1975

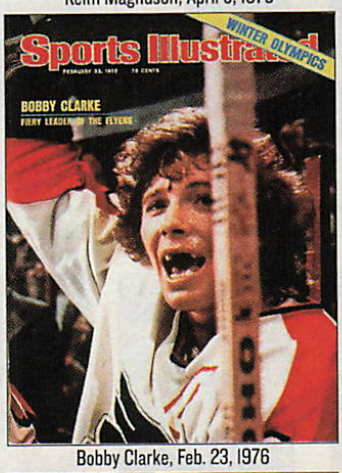


Pete Rose, Dec. 22, 1975

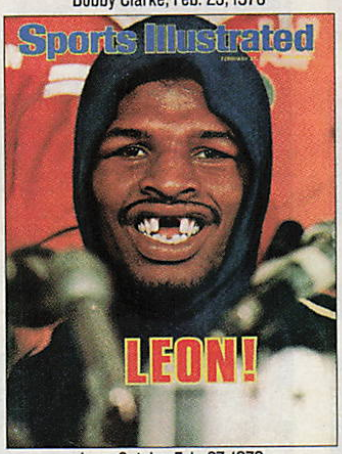
. . . big gaps



Keith Magnuson, April 6, 1970

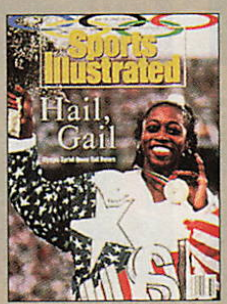


Bobby Clarke, Feb. 23, 1976



Leon Spinks, Feb. 27, 1978

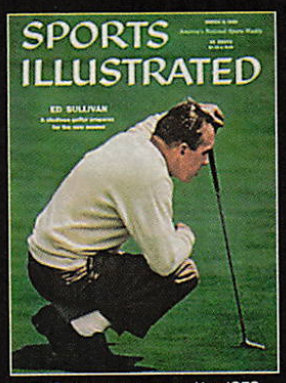
Mary Lou Retton, Aug. 13, 1984



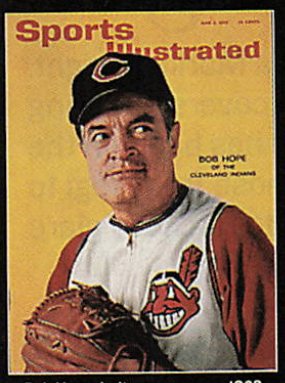
Gail Devers, Aug. 10, 1992

> that's entertainment

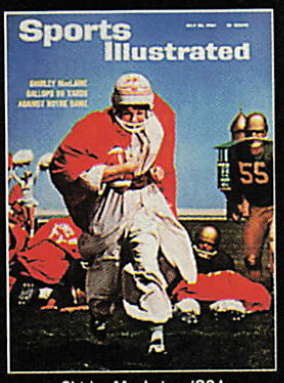
What was Ed Sullivan doing on the cover of SI? Lining up a putt, of course. The cross-pollination of pop culture and sports didn't start with Joltin' Joe and Marilyn, but perhaps it should have ended with the Bird and Big Bird



Ed Sullivan, amateur golfer, 1959

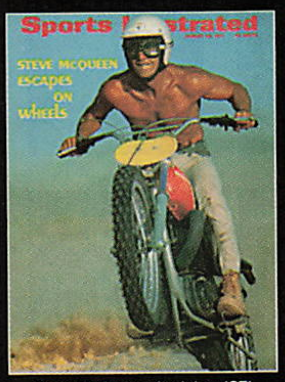


Bob Hope, Indians co-owner, 1963



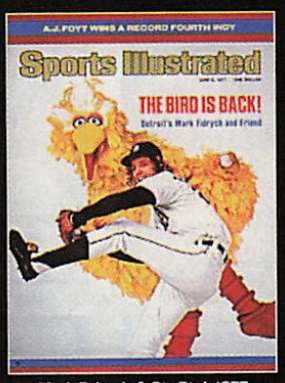
Shirley MacLaine, 1964

Joe Namath, *The Last Rebel*, 1970

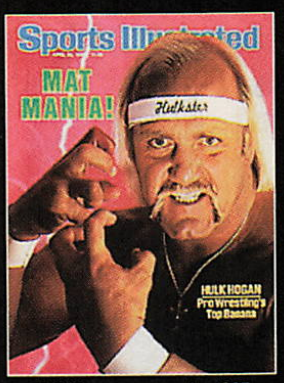


Steve McQueen, dirt biker, 1971

Semi-Tough, 1977

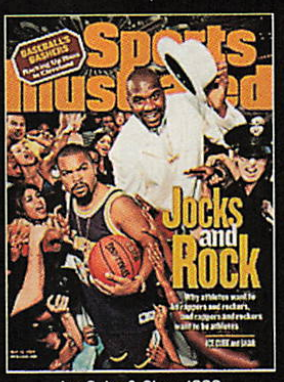


Mark Fidrych & Big Bird, 1977

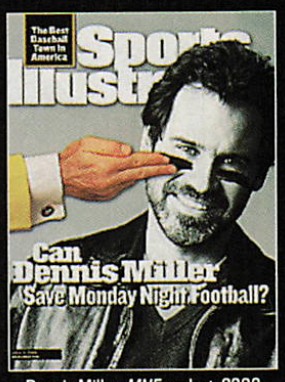


Hulk Hogan, pro wrestler, 1985

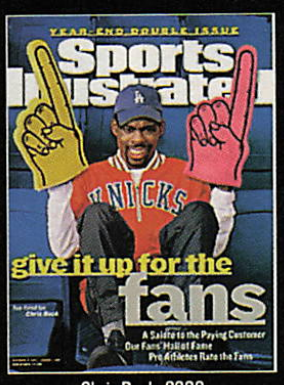
Arnold Schwarzenegger, 1987



Ice Cube & Shaq, 1999



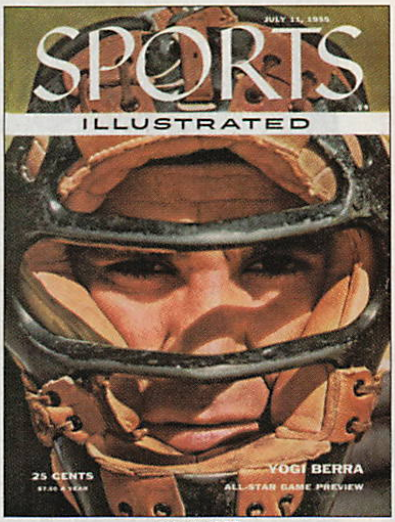
Dennis Miller, *MNF* analyst, 2000



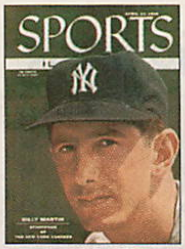
Chris Rock, 2000

> Yankees Win Again

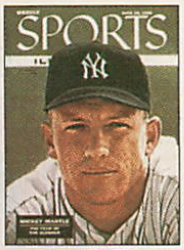
. . . and not a Marlin in sight. Here are all the covers featuring the team that has been on the front of SI the most, from Yogi to "Yogi's Back" to Rocket's glare



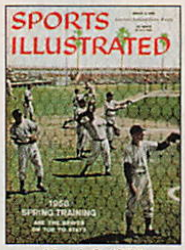
July 11, 1955



April 23, 1956

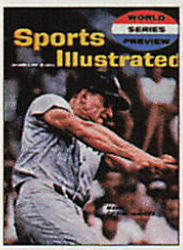


June 18, 1956

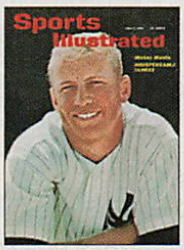


March 3, 1958

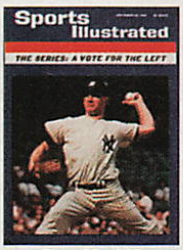
March 17, 1958



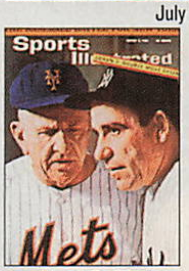
Oct. 2, 1961



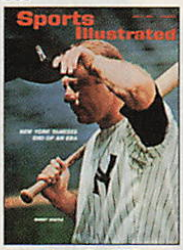
July 2, 1962



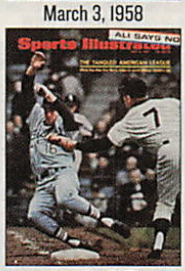
Sept. 30, 1963



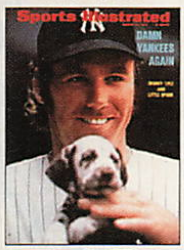
March 2, 1964



June 21, 1965

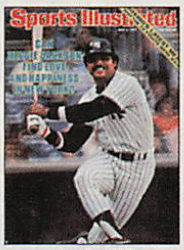


May 8, 1967

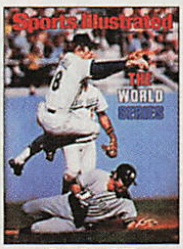


Aug. 21, 1972

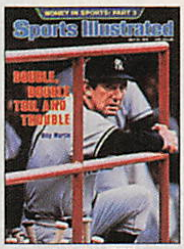
May 31, 1976



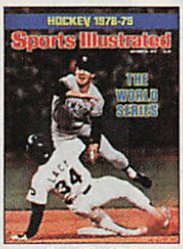
May 2, 1977



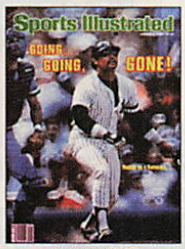
Oct. 24, 1977



July 31, 1978

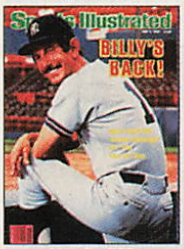


Oct. 23, 1978

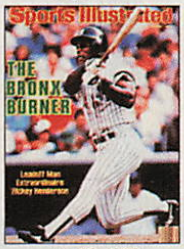


Aug. 4, 1980

Aug. 25, 1980

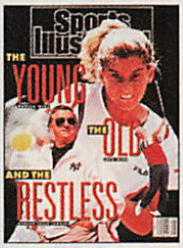


May 6, 1985



July 28, 1986

July 13, 1987



June 18, 1990

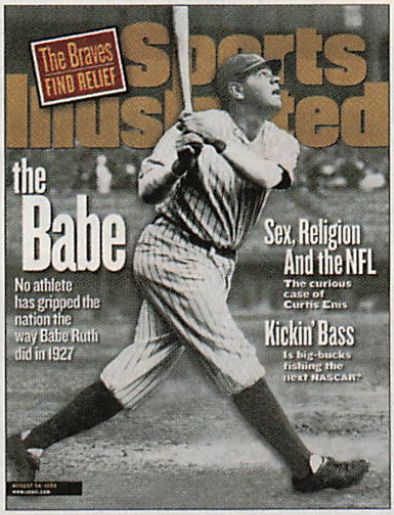
May 27, 1991

March 1, 1993

May 3, 1993

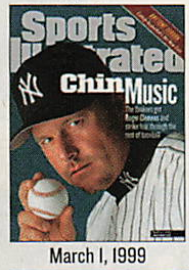
Feb. 24, 1997

May 18, 1998


The Braves FIND RELIEF
the Babe
No athlete has gripped the nation the way Babe Ruth did in 1927
Sex, Religion And the NFL
The curious case of Curtis Enis
Kickin' Bass
Is big-bucks fishing the next NASCAR?
Aug. 24, 1998

Oct. 12, 1998

Nov. 2, 1998



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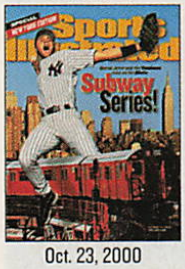

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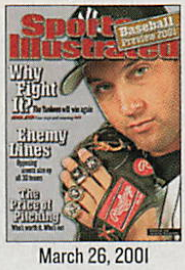
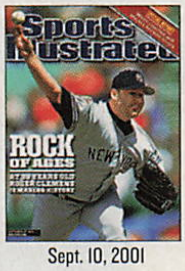
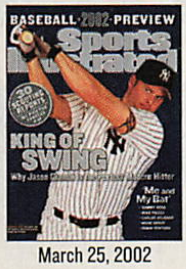


March 26, 2001

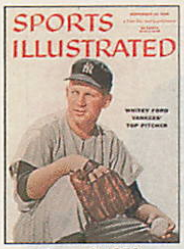


Sept. 10, 2001

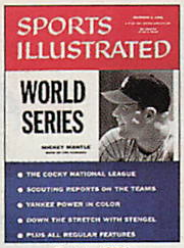
Oct. 22, 2001



March 25, 2002



Sept. 10, 1956



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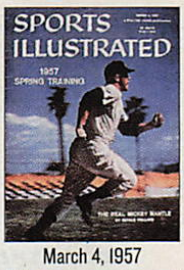

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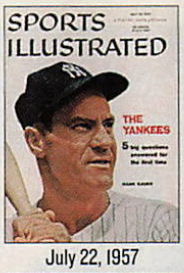
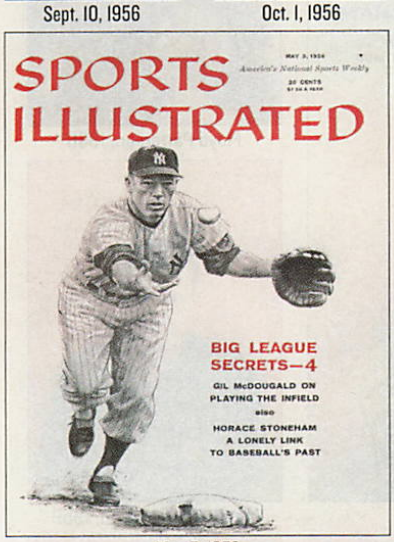
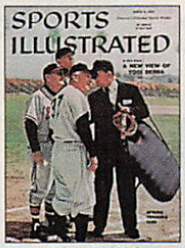


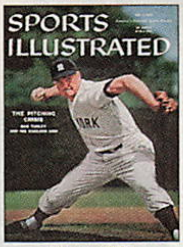
July 22, 1957



May 5, 1958

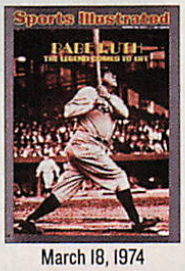


March 2, 1959



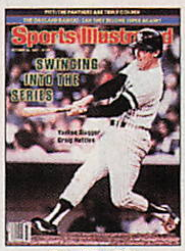
May 4, 1959

July 2, 1973

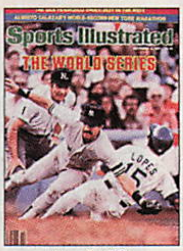


March 18, 1974

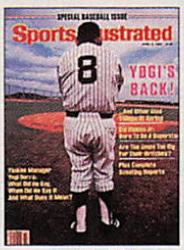
Jan. 5, 1981



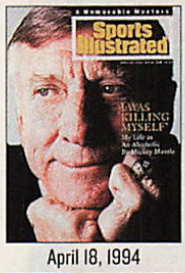
Oct. 26, 1981



Nov. 2, 1981



April 2, 1984



April 18, 1994

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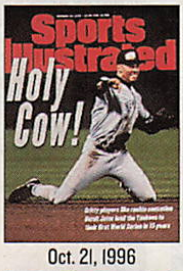

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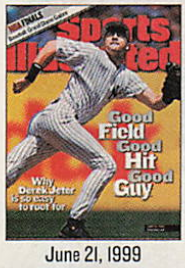
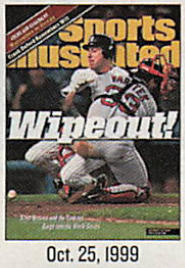
Nov. 4, 1996



June 21, 1999



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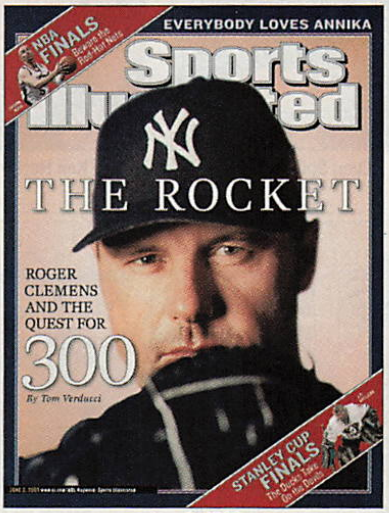
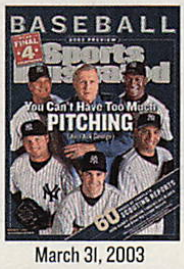


June 2, 2003

Aug. 26, 2002



March 31, 2003

> most covers by team

This list is just for the Big Four pro sports and men's college basketball and football. For the complete list or to see your team's covers, go to SI.com/covers

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Los Angeles Lakers....57
Dallas Cowboys....45
Chicago Bulls....44
Los Angeles Dodgers....38
Boston Celtics....37
Boston Red Sox....35
Cincinnati Reds....35
San Francisco 49ers....33
Notre Dame (FB)....32
St. Louis Cardinals (BB)....31
Pittsburgh Steelers....29
New York Mets....27
Oklahoma (FB)....27
Baltimore Orioles....25
Green Bay Packers....25
Miami Dolphins....25
UCLA (BKB)....24
New York Knicks....23
Oakland Athletics....23
Oakland Raiders....23
Chicago Bears....22
Duke (BKB)....22
Minnesota Vikings....21
Detroit Tigers....20
Washington Redskins....20
Chicago White Sox....19
Philadelphia Phillies....19
Pittsburgh Pirates....19
Atlanta Braves....18
Denver Broncos....18
Texas (FB)....18
Chicago Cubs....17
Minnesota Twins....17
New York Giants....17
New York Jets....17
San Francisco Giants....17
Ohio State (FB)....16
Philadelphia 76ers....16
Cleveland Browns....15
Miami (FB)....15
Nebraska (FB)....15
Seattle Mariners....15
USC (FB)....15
Indiana (BKB)....14
Kentucky (BKB)....14
Baltimore Colts....12
Boston Bruins....12
Kansas City Royals....12
Los Angeles Rams....12
Montreal Canadiens....12
Houston Rockets....11
Kansas (BKB)....11
Milwaukee Bucks....11
New York Rangers....11
North Carolina (BKB)....11
Portland Trail Blazers....11
San Antonio Spurs....11
Anaheim Angels....10
Buffalo Bills....10
Chicago Blackhawks....10
Cleveland Indians....10
Michigan (FB)....10
Penn State (FB)....10
San Diego Padres....10
Tampa Bay Buccaneers....10
Alabama (FB)....9
Atlanta Hawks....9
Detroit Lions....9
Georgetown (BKB)....9
San Diego Chargers....9
Detroit Pistons....8
Florida State (FB)....8
Kansas City Chiefs....8
Maryland (BKB)....8
Michigan (BKB)....8
Milwaukee Braves....8
New Jersey Nets....8
Brooklyn Dodgers....7
Edmonton Oilers....7
New England Patriots....7
Phoenix Suns....7
St. Louis Rams....7
Toronto Blue Jays....7
Detroit Red Wings....6
Georgia (FB)....6
Houston Oilers....6
North Carolina State (BKB)....6
Seattle SuperSonics....6
Virginia (BKB)....6
Arkansas (BKB)....5
Cincinnati Bengals....5
Florida (FB)....5
Indianapolis Colts....5
Los Angeles Kings....5
Louisiana State (BKB)....5
Milwaukee Brewers....5
Montreal Expos....5
New Orleans Saints....5
New York Islanders....5
Philadelphia Eagles....5
Philadelphia Flyers....5
St. Louis Cardinals (FB)....5
Tennessee (FB)....5
Texas Rangers....5
Utah Jazz....5
Arizona Diamondbacks....4
Houston Astros....4
Marquette (BKB)....4
Michigan State (BKB)....4
New Jersey Generals....4
Ohio State (BKB)....4
Orlando Magic....4
Philadelphia Warriors....4
Pittsburgh Penguins....4
St. Louis Blues....4
St. John's (BKB)....4
Syracuse (BKB)....4
UCLA (FB)....4
Washington Wizards....4
Arizona (BKB)....3
Arkansas (FB)....3
Army (FB)....3
Baltimore Ravens....3
Boston College (FB)....3
Denver Nuggets....3
Golden State Warriors....3
Houston (FB)....3
Los Angeles Clippers....3
Los Angeles Raiders....3
Louisville (BKB)....3
Navy (FB)....3
Sacramento Kings....3
Stanford (FB)....3
Tennessee Titans....3
UNLV (BKB)....3
Villanova (BKB)....3
Virginia Tech (FB)....3
Washington Bullets....3
Auburn (FB)....2
Boston College (BKB)....2
Buffalo Braves....2
Calgary Flames....2
Charlotte Hornets....2
Cincinnati (BKB)....2
Cleveland Cavaliers....2
Colorado (FB)....2
Colorado Avalanche....2
Florida Marlins....2
Georgia Tech (BKB)....2
Illinois State (BKB)....2
Indiana Pacers....2
Indiana State (BKB)....2
Iowa (BKB)....2
Iowa (FB)....2
Jacksonville Jaguars....2
Kansas State (BKB)....2
Kentucky (FB)....2
Louisiana State (FB)....2
Loyola Marymount (BKB)....2
Maryland (FB)....2
Michigan State (FB)....2
Minnesota Timberwolves....2
Mississippi (FB)....2
New Jersey Devils....2
Northwestern (FB)....2
Oregon (FB)....2
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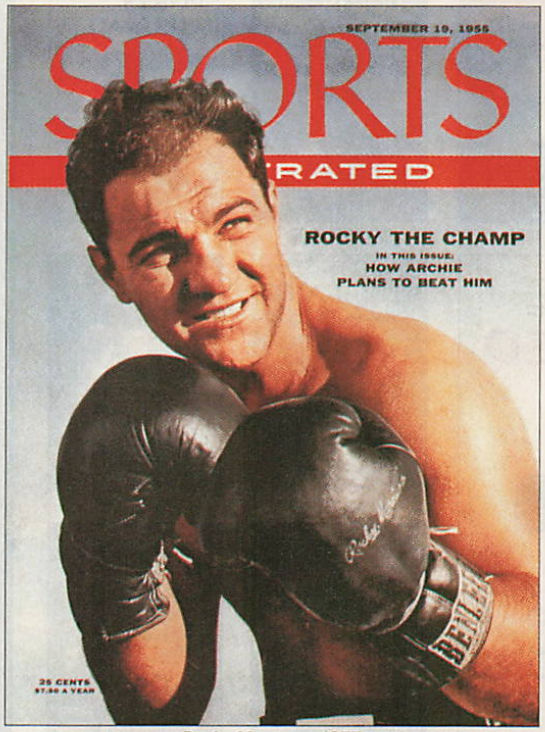
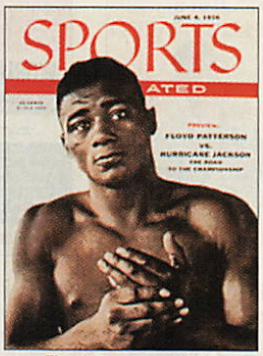
Oregon State (FB)....2
Pittsburgh (FB)....2
Phoenix Cardinals....2
Princeton (BKB)....2
Purdue (FB)....2
San Diego Clippers....2
San Francisco Warriors....2
Santa Clara (BKB)....2
Syracuse (FB)....2
Temple (BKB)....2
Texas Christian (FB)....2
Toronto Raptors....2
Washington (FB)....2
Washington Senators....2

> Heavyweights

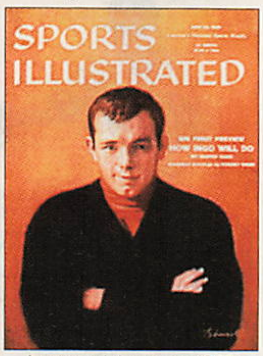
Being heavyweight champion of the world is no guarantee that you'll be on the cover (tough luck, Lennox Lewis), but it worked for these tough guys



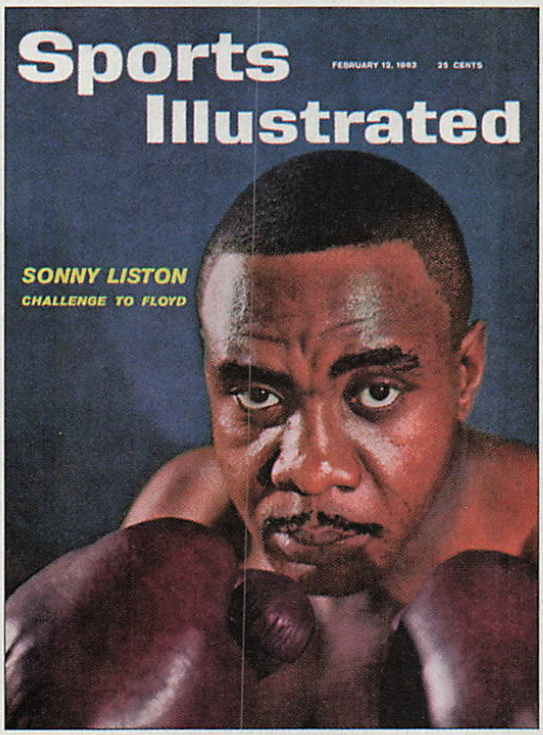
Rocky Marciano, 1955



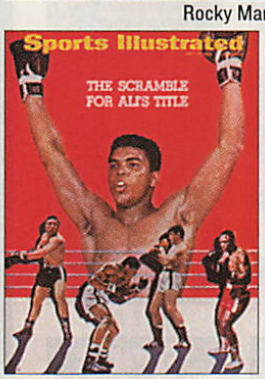
Floyd Patterson, 1956



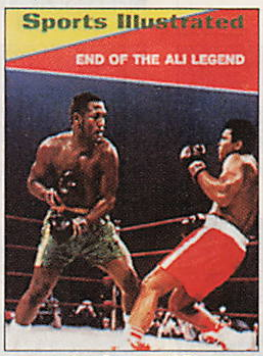
Ingemar Johansson, 1959



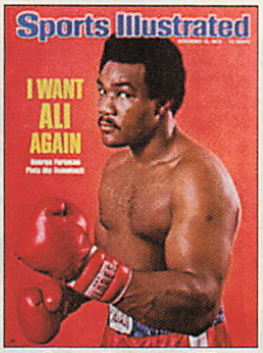
Sonny Liston, 1962



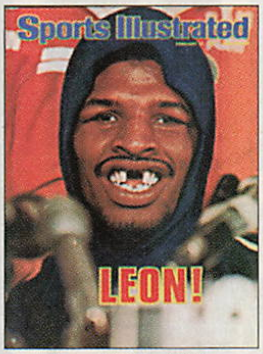
Muhammad Ali, 1967



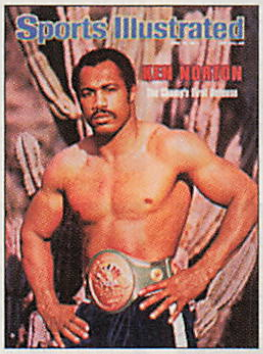
Joe Frazier, 1971



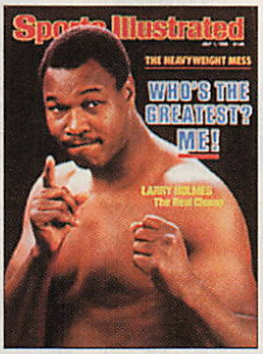
George Foreman, 1975



Leon Spinks, 1978



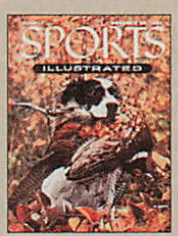
Ken Norton, 1978



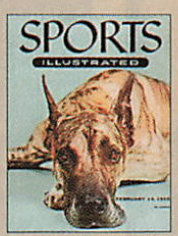
Larry Holmes, 1985

> dogs

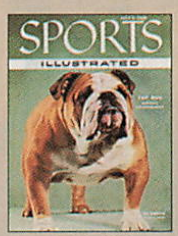
In the magazine's early days, a dog—almost every kind of dog, it seems—was some SI editor's best friend



Oct. 25, 1954

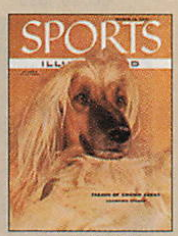


Feb. 14, 1955

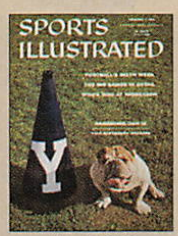


July 4, 1955

Dec. 12, 1955



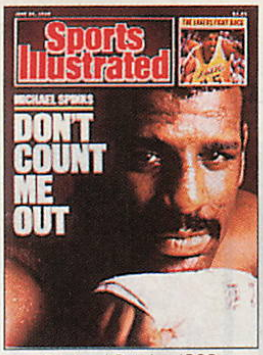
March 12, 1956



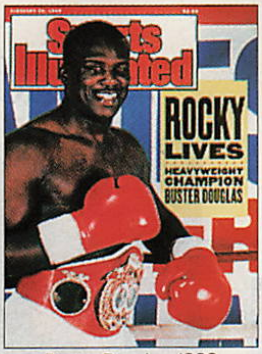
Nov. 5, 1956

> presidents

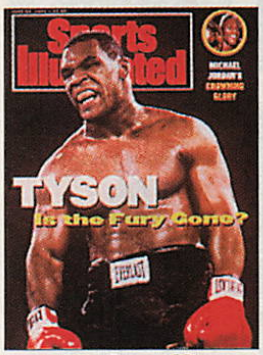
JFK, boating enthusiast, and Gerald Ford, notoriously inaccurate golfer and former football player, were SI's earliest forays into politics. After that, we never promised you a rose garden, but a big win might get you into the Rose Garden for a quick meet-and-greet with the most powerful man in the world



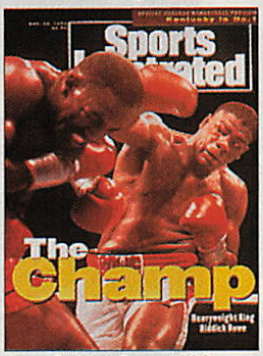
Michael Spinks, 1988



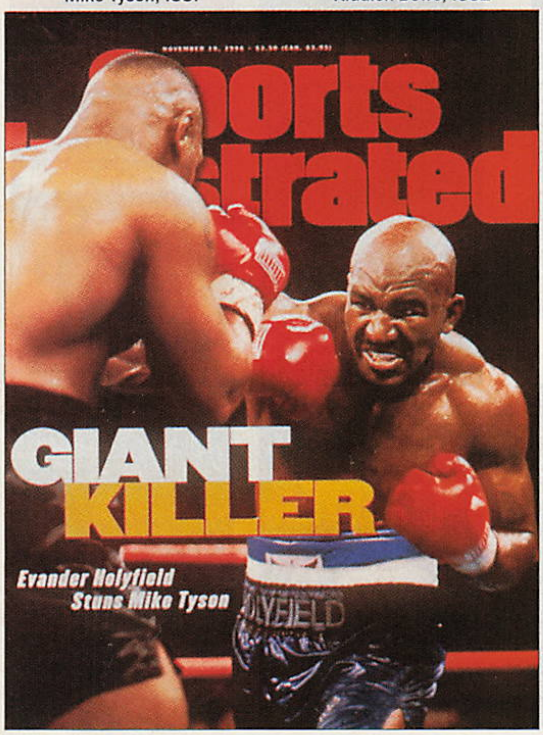
Buster Douglas, 1990



Mike Tyson, 1991

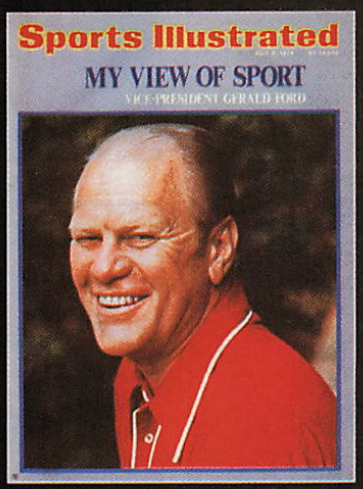


Riddick Bowe, 1992

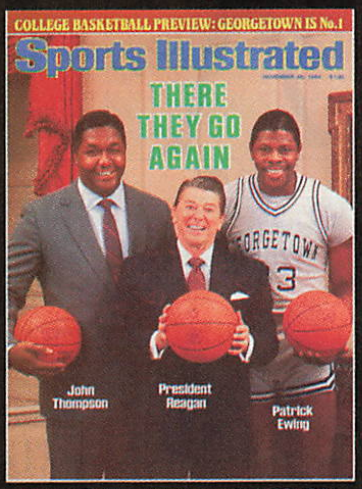


Evander Holyfield, 1996

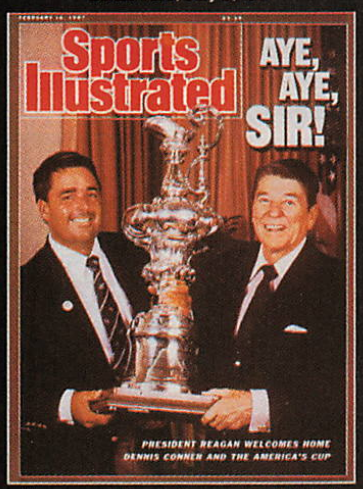
John & Jackie Kennedy, Dec. 26, 1960



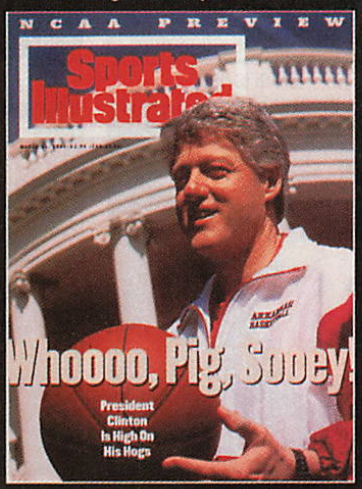
Gerald Ford, July 8, 1974



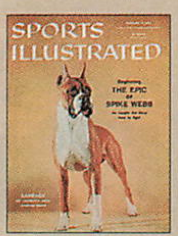
Ronald Reagan with Hoyas, Nov. 26, 1984



Reagan with Dennis Connor, Feb. 16, 1987



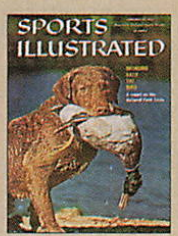
Bill Clinton, March 21, 1994



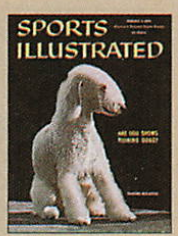
Feb. 11, 1957

July 14, 1958

Jan. 19, 1959



Nov. 30, 1959



Feb. 8, 1960

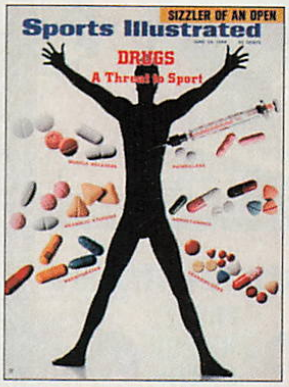
Feb. 24, 1975

July 27, 1987

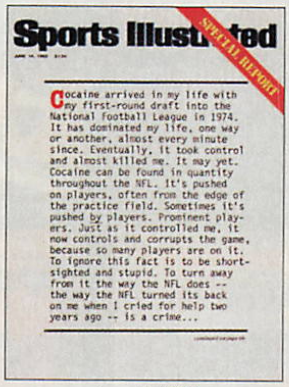
April 28, 1997

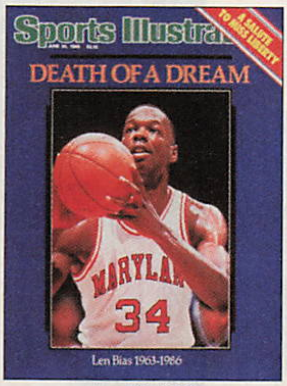
> Bad News ... drugs ... scandal

Performance enhancers are a big story today, as they were back in 1969, while cocaine tainted a Final Four upset and caused the stunning death of a No. 1 NBA pick



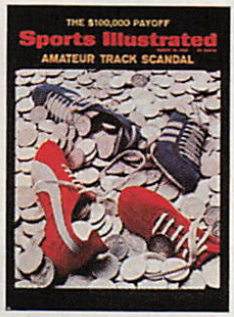
June 23, 1969


Sports Illustrated
SPECIAL REPORT
Cocaine arrived in my life with my first-round draft into the National Football League in 1974. It has dominated my life, one way or another, almost every minute since. Eventually, it took control and almost killed me. It may yet. Cocaine can be found in quantity throughout the NFL. It's pushed on players, often from the edge of the practice field. Sometimes it's pushed by players. Prominent players. Just as it controlled me, it now controls and corrupts the game, because so many players are on it. To ignore this fact is to be short-sighted and stupid. To turn away from it the way the NFL does -- the way the NFL turned its back on me when I cried for help two years ago -- is a crime...
June 14, 1982

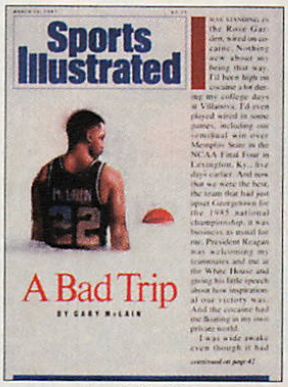


June 30, 1986

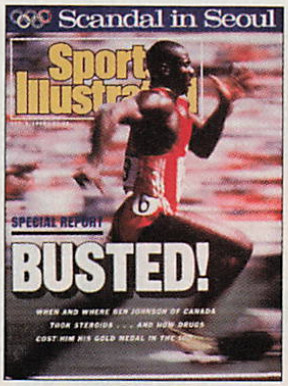
May 20, 1968



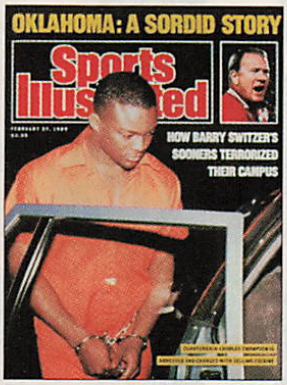
March 10, 1969



March 16, 1987

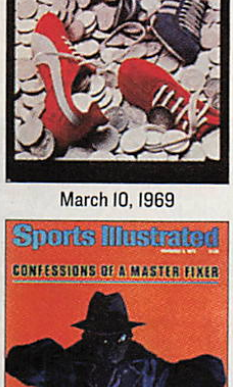


Oct. 3, 1988

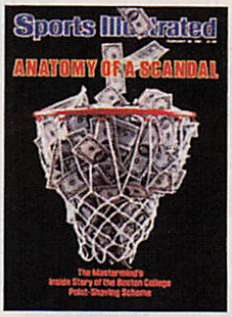


Feb. 27, 1989

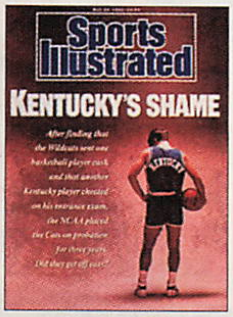
Nov. 14, 1977



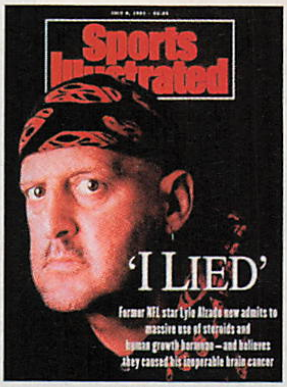
Nov. 6, 1978



Feb. 16, 1981

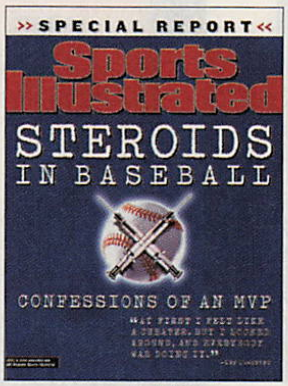


May 29, 1989

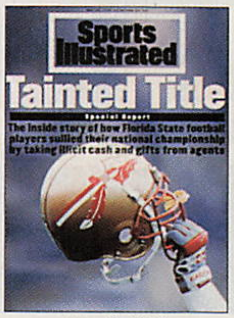


July 8, 1991

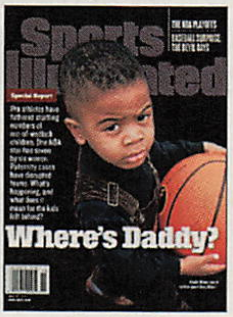
April 14, 1997



June 3, 2002



May 16, 1994



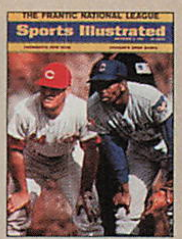
May 4, 1998

> re-pete

Pete Rose has been on the cover 15 times, but he probably hasn't put the last few on his wall

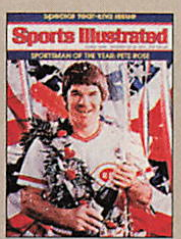
May 27, 1968

Sept. 8, 1969



Sept. 7, 1970

April 8, 1974



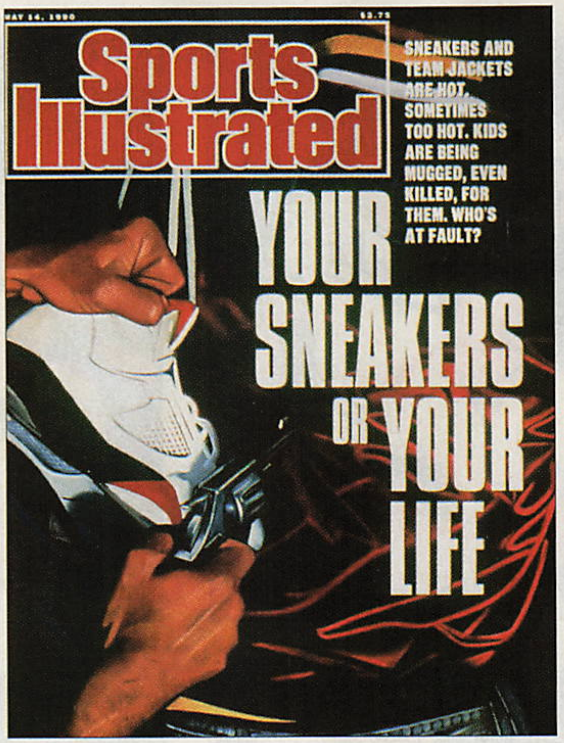
Dec. 22, 1975

Aug. 7, 1978

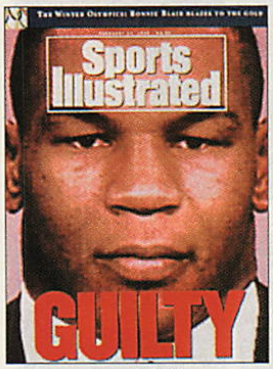
May 28, 1979

. . . crime

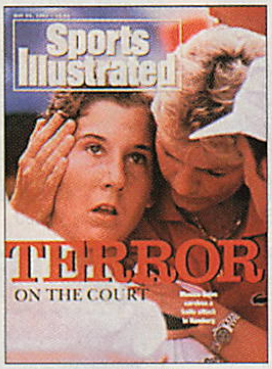
It now sounds almost like parody, but it was deadly serious in 1990: People were being robbed or even murdered for their trendy sneakers. Sadly, that wasn't the only SI cover story that came off the crime blotter—the magazine has also had to chronicle assaults, pedophilia, rape and a notorious murder case


Sports Illustrated
SNEAKERS AND TEAM JACKETS ARE HOT. SOMETIMES TOO HOT. KIDS ARE BEING MUGGED, EVEN KILLED, FOR THEM. WHO'S AT FAULT?
YOUR SNEAKERS OR YOUR LIFE

May 14, 1990

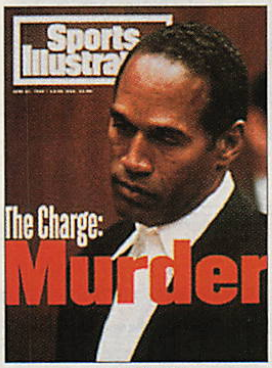


Jan. 17, 1992

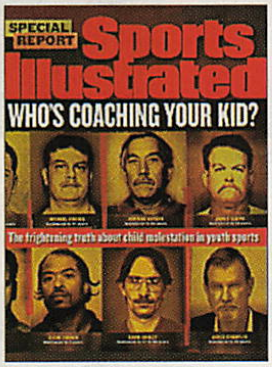


May 10, 1993

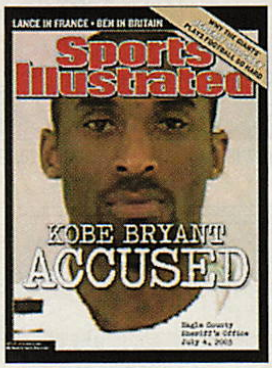
Jan. 17, 1994



June 27, 1994


SPECIAL REPORT
Sports Illustrated
WHO'S COACHING YOUR KID?
The frightening truth about child molestation in youth sports

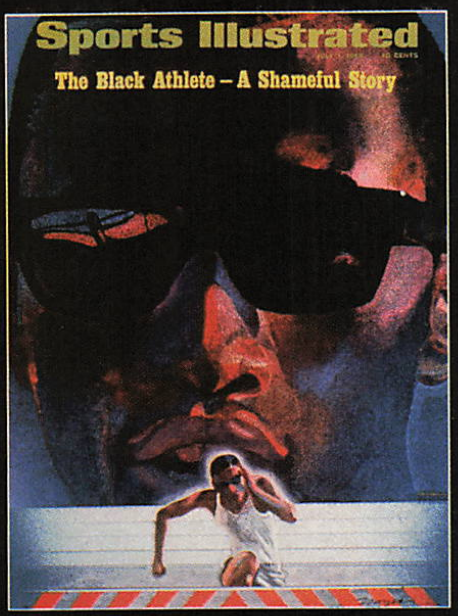
Sept. 13, 1999



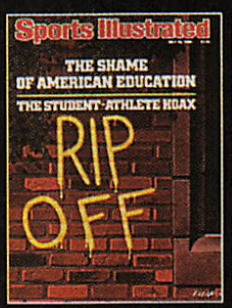
July 28, 2003

> issue issues

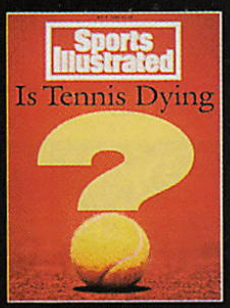
Most weeks SI editors just report the news, but some weeks it has been more important to take a stand



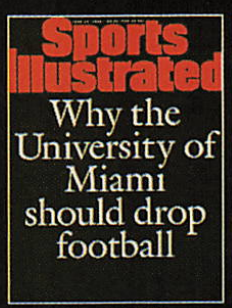
July 1, 1968



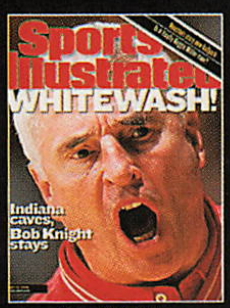
May 19, 1980



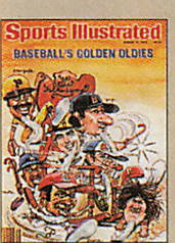
May 9, 1994



June 12, 1995

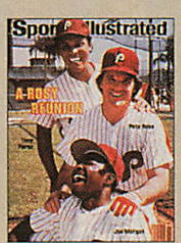


May 22, 2000



Aug. 27, 1979

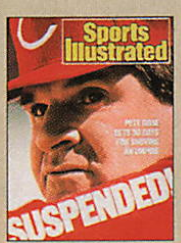
July 19, 1982



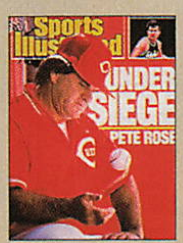
March 14, 1983

Aug. 27, 1984

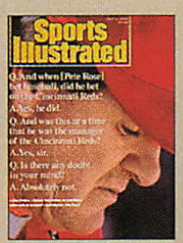
Aug. 19, 1985



May 9, 1988



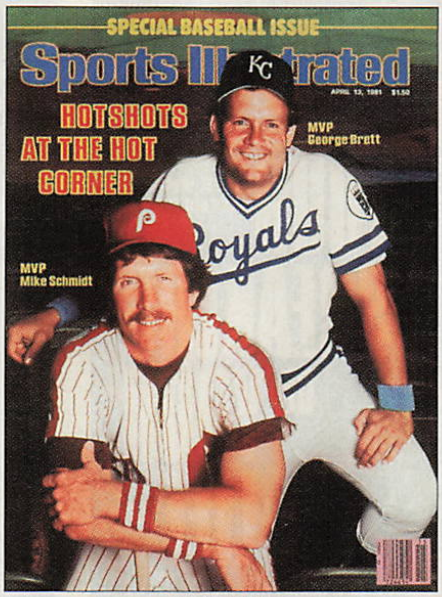
April 3, 1989



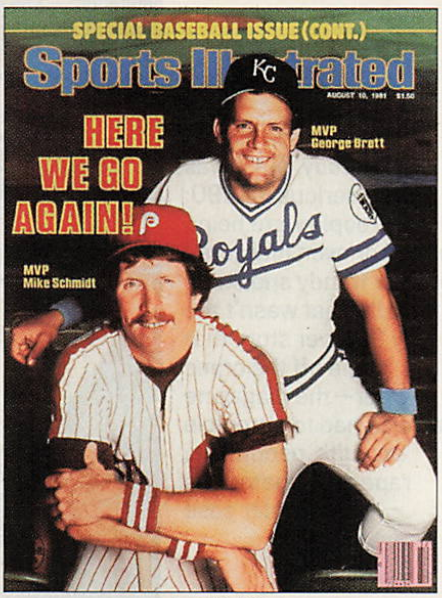
July 3, 1989

> Déjà Vu

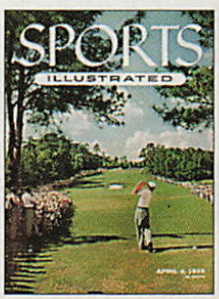
Mirror, mirror, on the wall, why did a picture of Mike Schmidt and George Brett (right) run twice? The redundancy was intentional in that case (to celebrate the end of a midseason strike), but the editors can't use that excuse every time



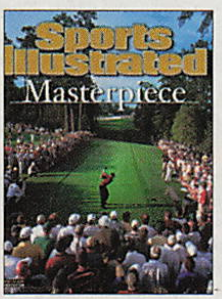
April 13, 1981



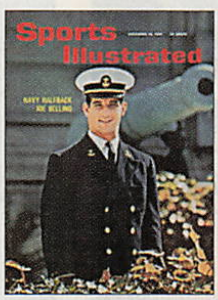
Aug. 10, 1981



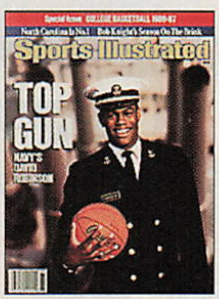
April 4, 1955



April 16, 2001

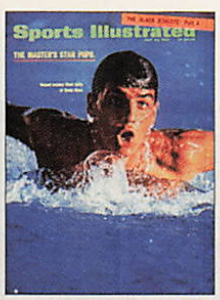


Nov. 28, 1960

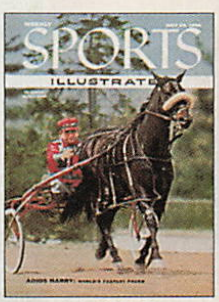


Nov. 19, 1986

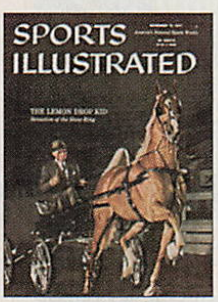
Aug. 1, 1960



July 22, 1968

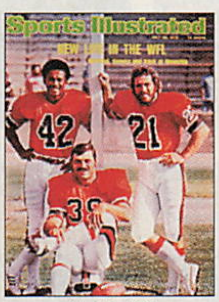


July 23, 1956

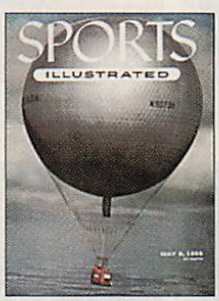


Nov. 11, 1957

Aug. 7, 1972



July 28, 1975

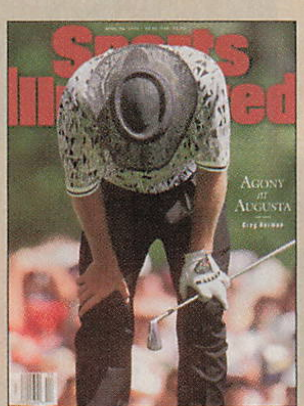


May 9, 1955

Aug. 28, 1978

> agony

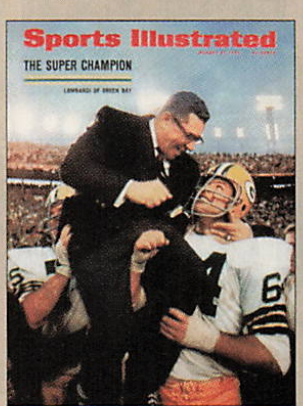
In sports there are losses, tough losses, heartbreakers . . . and then there's Greg Norman's epic collapse at the Masters



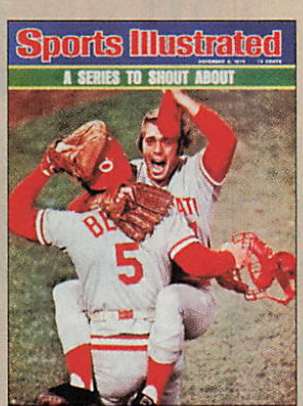
April 22, 1996

. . . ecstasy

Conventional wisdom says you need the lows to fully appreciate the highs, but does anyone really believe that?



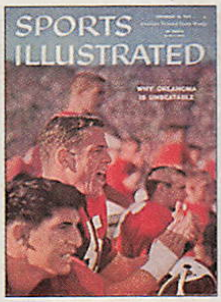
Jan. 22, 1968



Nov. 3, 1975

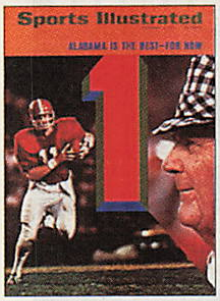
> Jinx

Statisticians and fatalists know that everybody has to lose some time—but why does it happen so often for a team the week after it's touted on the cover of SI?

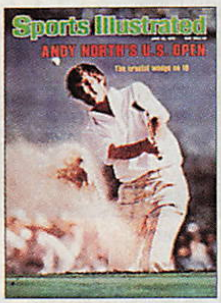


OKLAHOMA (1957)
Said goodbye to a record 47-game winning streak the following Saturday.

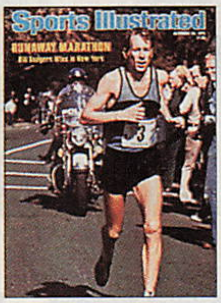
TEXAS (1970)
Longhorns fumbled 9 times in next game; ended their 30-game winning streak.



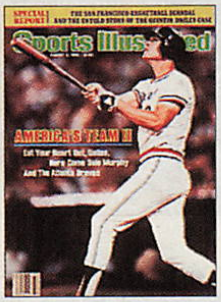
ALABAMA (1973)
The Tide was 11–0 going into the Sugar Bowl but lost to the Irish.



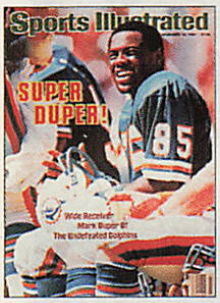
ANDY NORTH (1978)
Won his first tournament, the U.S. Open; didn't win another PGA event until '85.



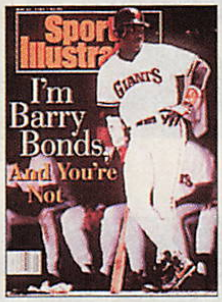
BILL RODGERS (1978)
He won 7 straight marathons, then finished 6th in first race after this cover.



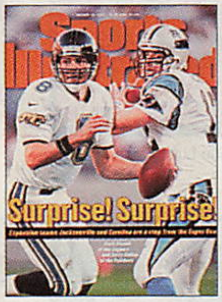
DALE MURPHY (1982)
Postcover, Braves star outfielder went 6 for 31 while team lost 14 of 15.



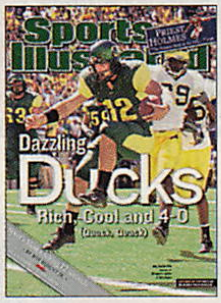
MIAMI DOLPHINS (1984)
An 11–0 record was tarnished by a loss to the Chargers the following Sunday.



BARRY BONDS (1993)
His batting average dropped 40 points in two weeks following cover.



BRUNELL & COLLINS (1997)
Both of these "hot" QBs lost in the playoffs a week later.

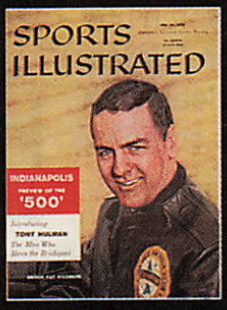


OREGON (2003)
After upsetting Michigan, the Ducks were 4–0, ranked 10th. Lost next 3 games.

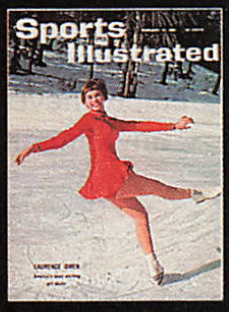
> tragedy

The so-called SI jinx is just a confluence of probability and superstition, but there have been a few chilling coincidences over the years

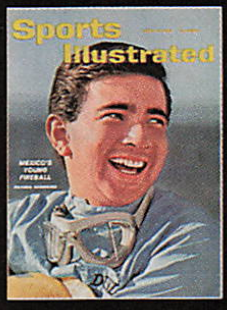
JILL KINMONT (1955)
Paralyzed in a skiing accident the week her cover was on the stands. Where the jinx began?



PAT O'CONNOR (1958)
Featured in our Indy 500 Preview; he was killed in a 15-car pileup on the race's first lap.



LAURENCE OWEN (1961)
The U.S. skating team perished in a plane crash two days after this cover date.

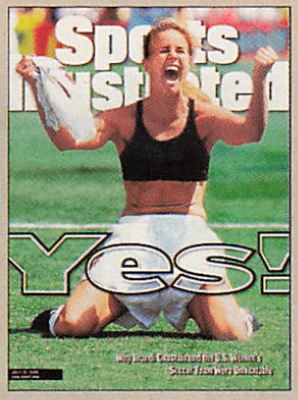


RICARDO RODRIGUEZ (1962)
Dies in a fiery crash eight months after SI calls him MEXICO'S YOUNG FIREBALL.

JOHNNY PODRES (1956)
A hasty Sportsman sub after Bill Woodward Jr. was accidentally killed by his wife.

March 3, 1980

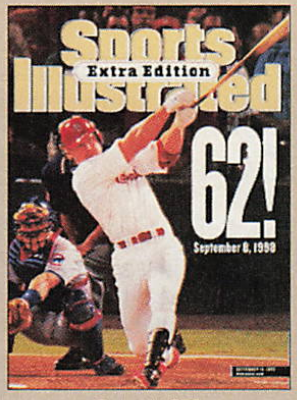
Sept. 15, 1980



July 19, 1999

...history

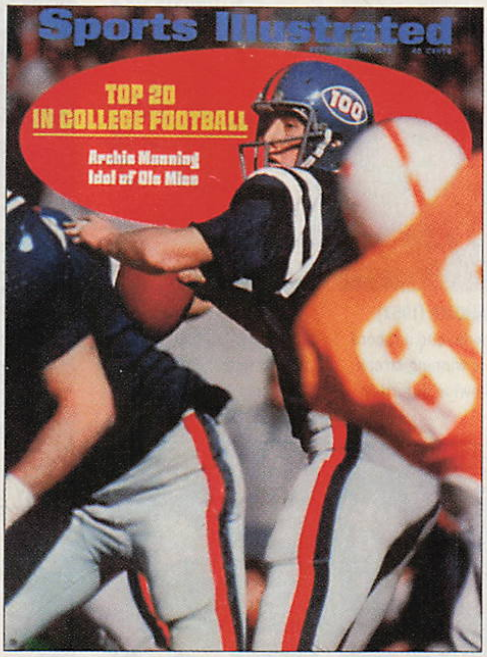
When Mark McGwire broke Roger Maris's home run record on a Tuesday night, SI broke precedent and released a second, midweek cover that sold pretty well—it's the magazine's alltime best seller

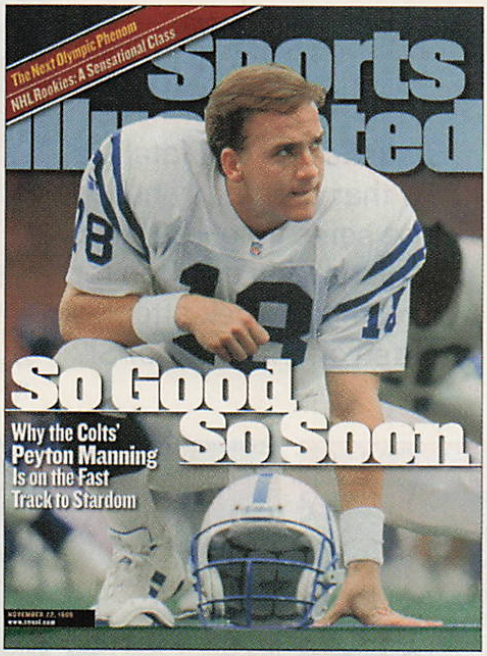


Sept. 14, 1998

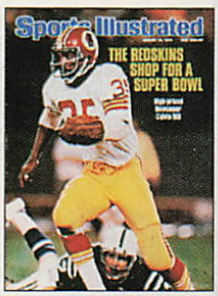
> Fathers and Sons

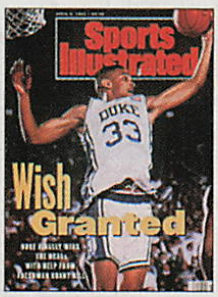
What prouder moment for a father than to see his son on the cover of SI? Unless, of course, Dad beat his boy to the punch, which has happened several times. Oedipus never dealt with anything this complex



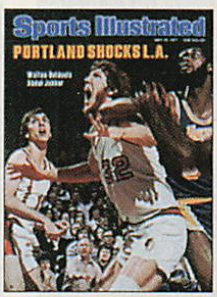

The Next Olympic Phenom
NHL Rookies: A Sensational Class
So Good, So Soon
Why the Colts' Peyton Manning Is on the Fast Track to Stardom

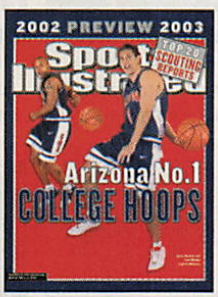
THE MANNINGS Archie and Peyton



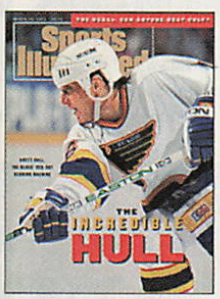


THE HILLS Calvin and Grant

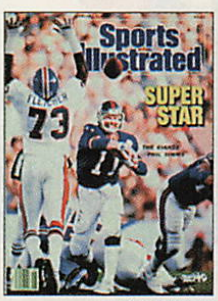




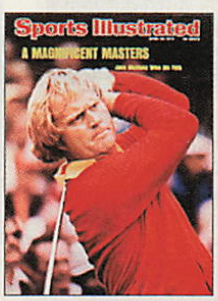
THE WALTONS Bill and Luke



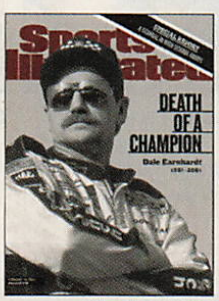
THE HULLS Bobby and Brett

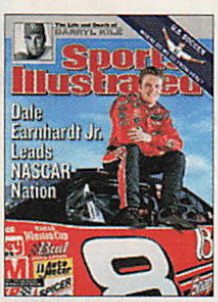


THE SIMMSES Phil and Chris



THE NICKLAUSES Jack and Gary

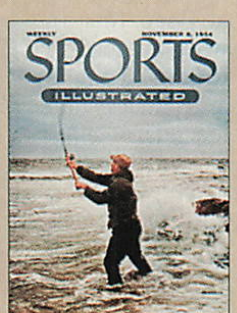




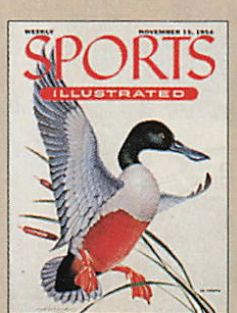
THE EARNHARDTS Dale and Dale Jr.

> hunting, fishing

In its early days SI had a taste for blood sports

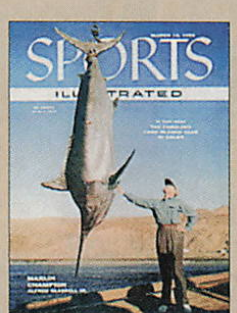


Nov. 8, 1954

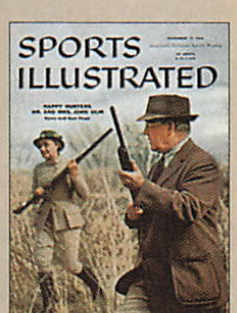


Nov. 15, 1954

Nov. 14, 1955



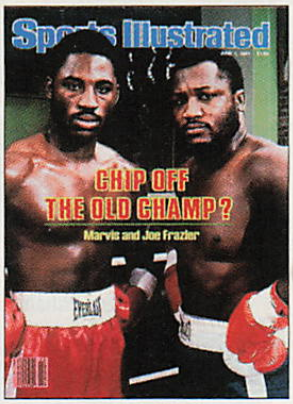
March 19, 1956



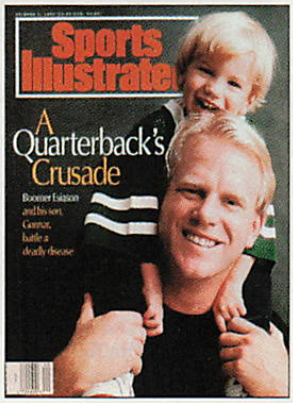
Nov. 17, 1958

. . . together

Some fathers and sons got to share a cover



THE FRAZIERS
Marvis and Joe

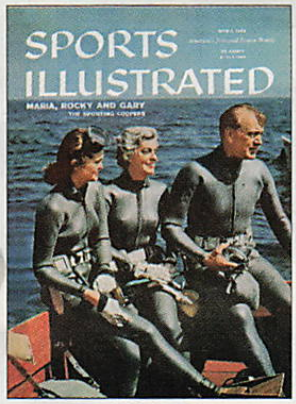


THE ESIASONS
Boomer and Gunnar

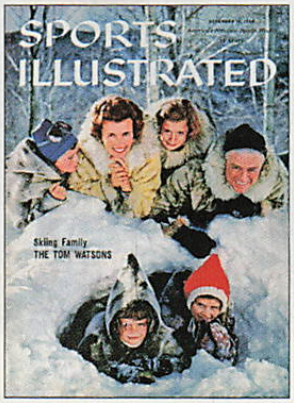
THE BUHNERS
Jay and Chase

. . . families

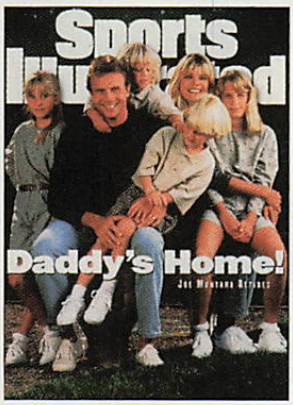
The perfect picture for the Christmas card



THE COOPERS
Gary, Maria and Rocky



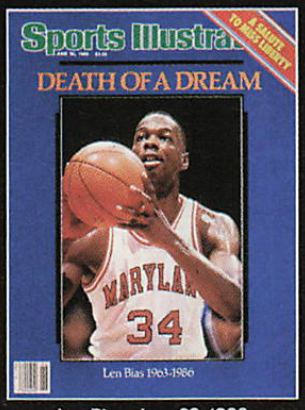
THE WATSONS
Tom and Family



THE MONTANAS
Joe and Family

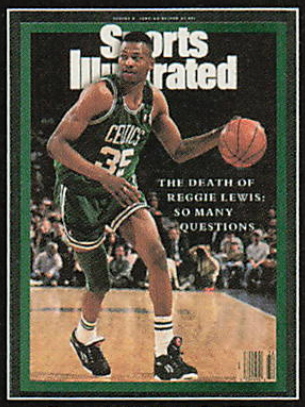
> in memoriam

Tribute covers are a relatively recent innovation for SI

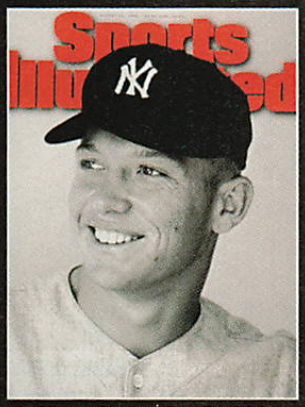


Len Bias, June 30, 1986

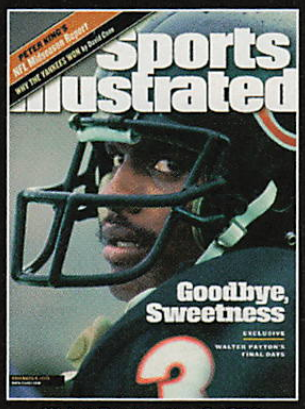
Arthur Ashe, Feb. 15, 1993



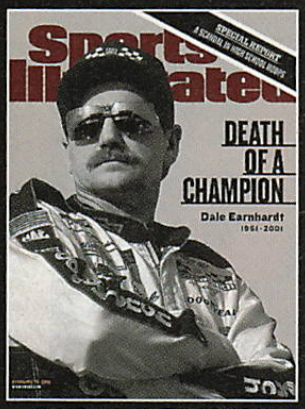
Reggie Lewis, Aug. 9, 1993



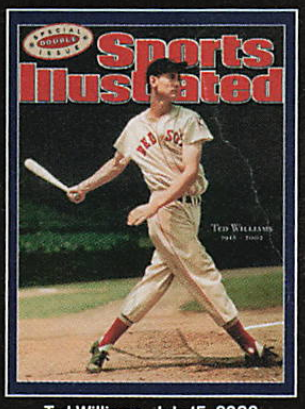
Mickey Mantle, Aug. 21, 1995



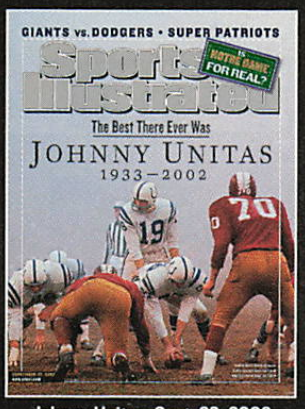
Walter Payton, Nov. 8, 1999



Dale Earnhardt, Feb. 26, 2001



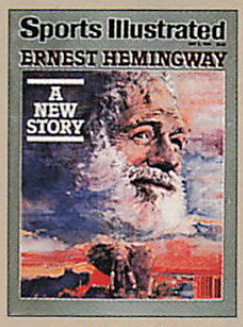
Ted Williams, July 15, 2002



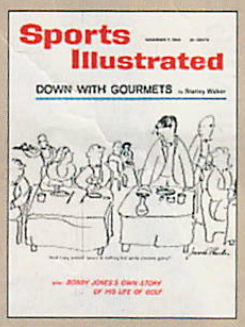
Johnny Unitas, Sept. 23, 2002

. . . and eating

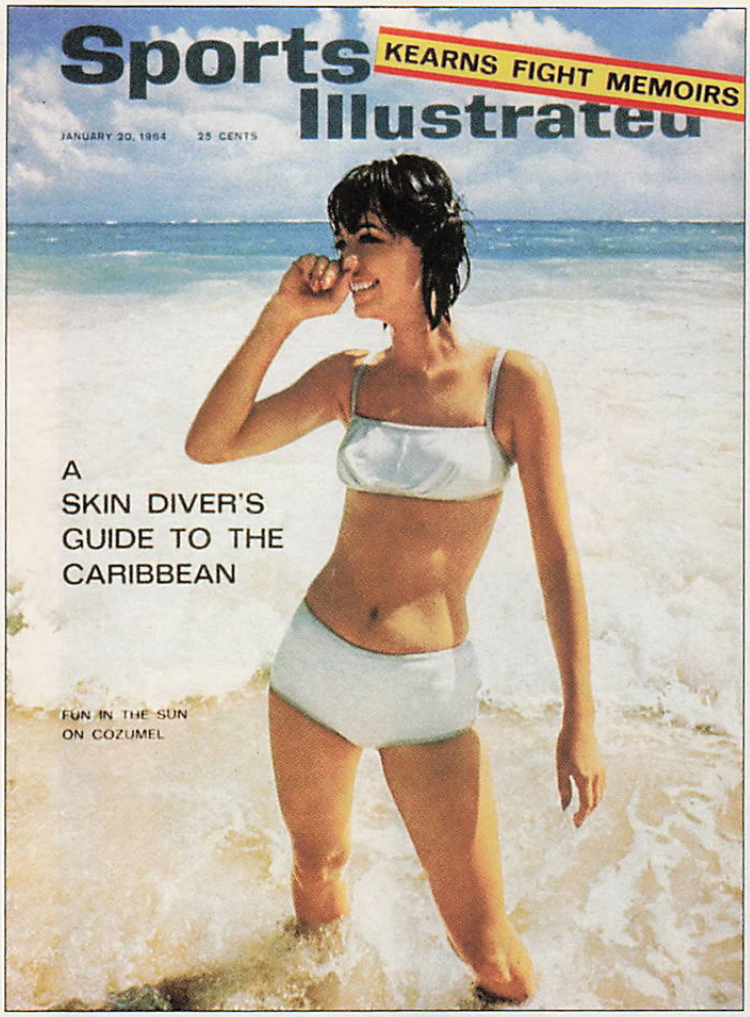
The prey in the crosshairs this week was gourmets



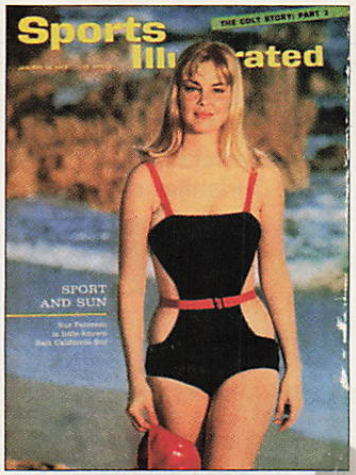
May 5, 1986



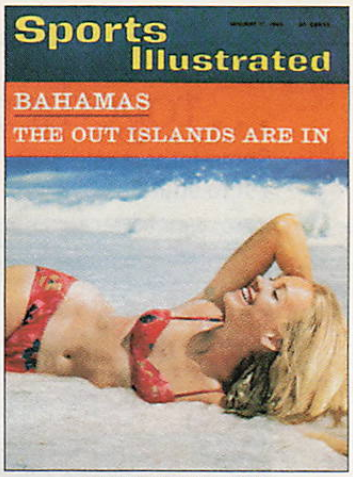
Nov. 7, 1960


Sports Illustrated
KEARNS FIGHT MEMOIRS
JANUARY 20, 1964 25 CENTS
A SKIN DIVER'S GUIDE TO THE CARIBBEAN
FUN IN THE SUN ON COZUMEL

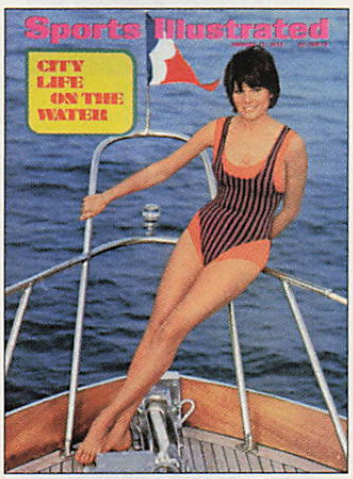
BABETTE MARCH, 1964
Cozumel, Mexico



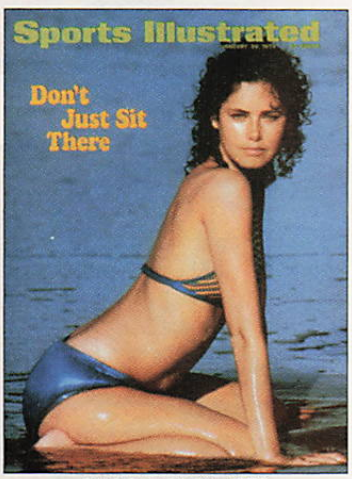
SUE PETERSON, 1965
Baja California



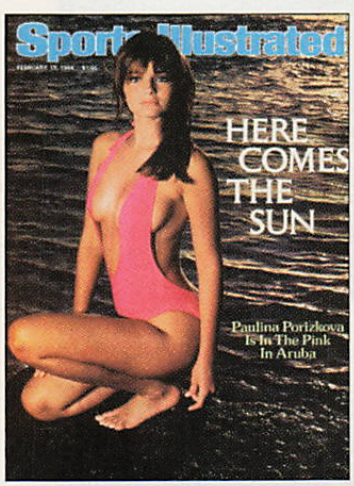
SUNNY BIPPUS, 1966
Norman Cay, Bahamas



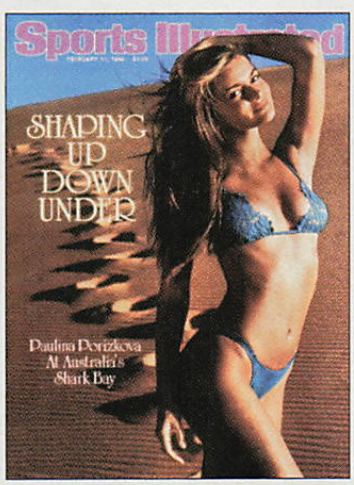
SHEILA ROSCOE, 1972
Marina del Rey, Calif.



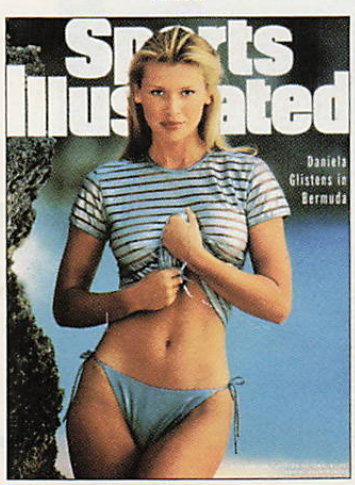
DAYLE HADDON, 1973
Great Exuma, Bahamas



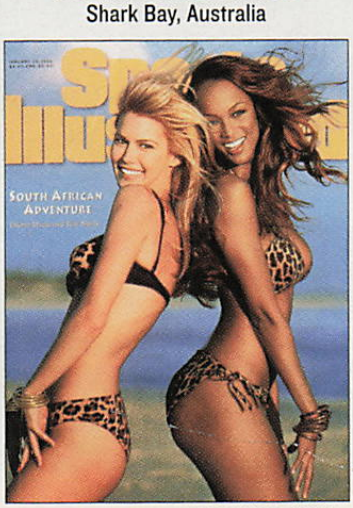
PAULINA PORIZKOVA, 1984
Aruba



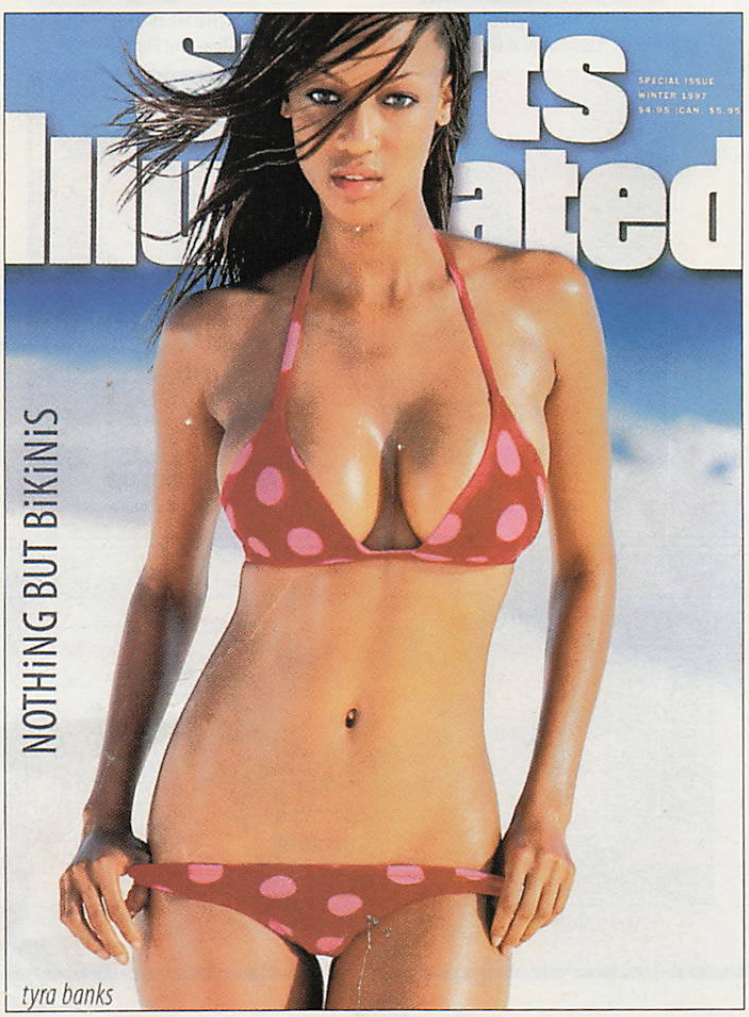
PAULINA PORIZKOVA, 1985
Shark Bay, Australia



DANIELA PESTOVA, 1995
Bermuda



VALERIA MAZZA, TYRA BANKS, 1996
South Africa

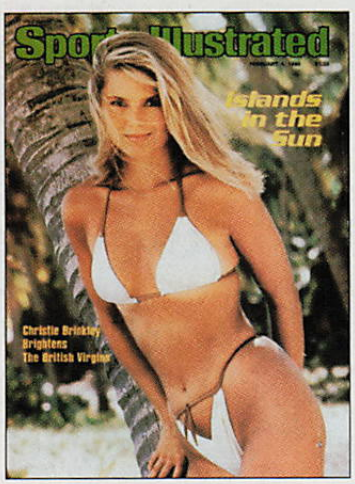


TYRA BANKS, 1997
Harbour Island, Bahamas

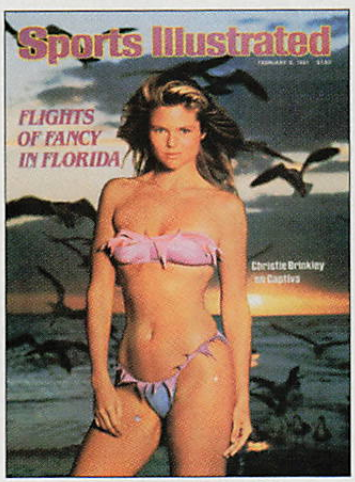
Sports Illustrated

Still Hot at 40

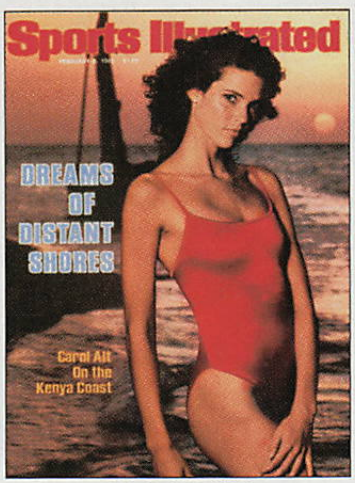
NOT ALL THE ATHLETES SI has put on the cover play a sport. In fact some of our most popular subjects are famous for simply being uncovered. The SI Swimsuit issue (which will celebrate its 40th anniversary in January) has become a global phenomenon and generated more letters than any of the sports stories in the main magazine, with the missives evenly split between "Cancel my subscription!" and "Can I have Cheryl Tiegs's home number?"



CHRISTIE BRINKLEY, 1980
British Virgin Islands



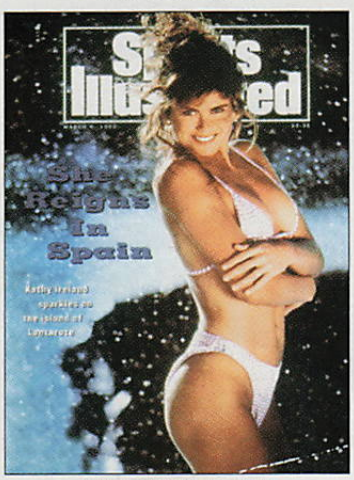
CHRISTIE BRINKLEY, 1981
Captiva Island, Fla.



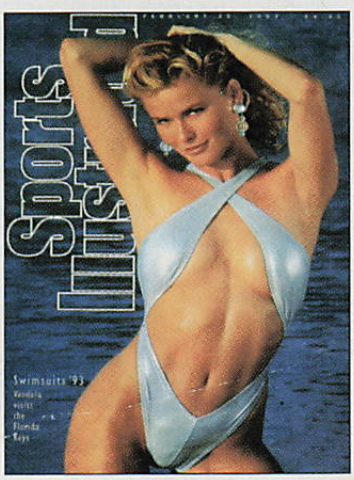
CAROL ALT, 1982
Kenya

CHERYL TIEGS, 1983
Jamaica

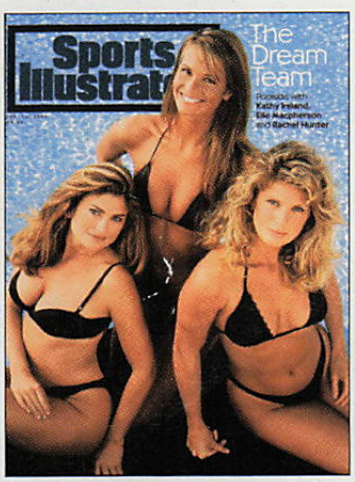
ASHLEY MONTANA, 1991
Turks and Caicos Islands



KATHY IRELAND, 1992
Lanzarote, Spain



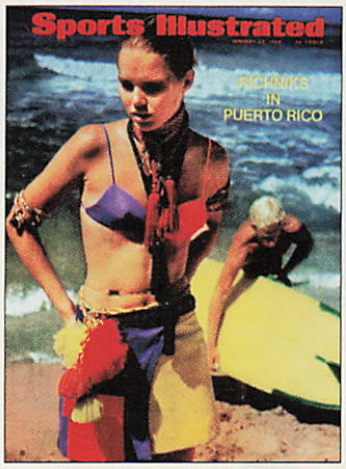
VENDELA, 1993
Islamorada, Florida Keys



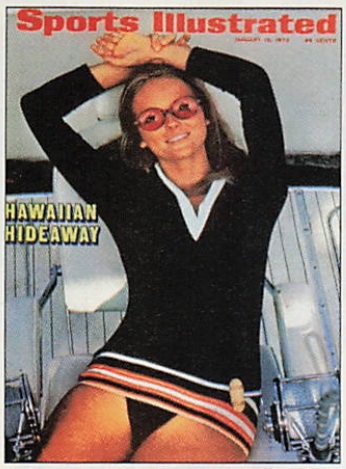
KATHY IRELAND, ELLE MACPHERSON, RACHEL HUNTER, 1994, Beverly Hills

ALL-NEW TUNDRA DOUBLE CAB
V8 4WD
TUNDRA
Vehicle shown with available equipment. ©2003 Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. toyota.com

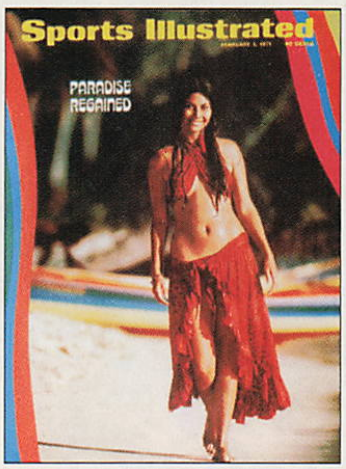
IT'S ALWAYS GAME DAY.
TOYOTA
TRUCKS



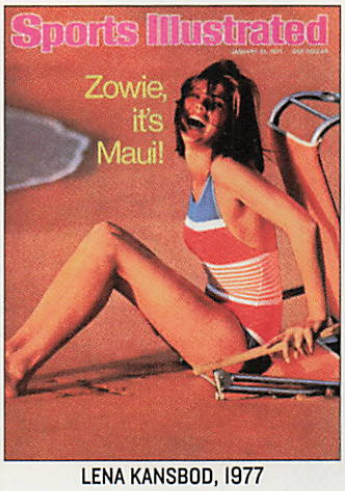
JAMEE BECKER, 1969
Puerto Rico



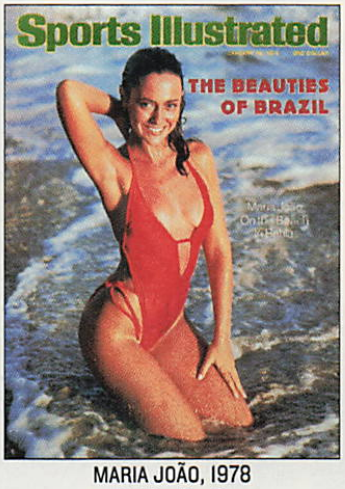
CHERYL TIEGS, 1970
Hawaii



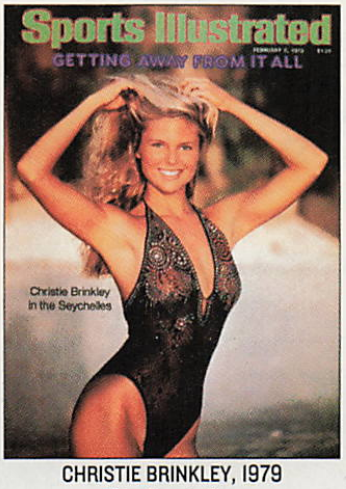
TANNIA RUBIANO, 1971
Dominican Republic



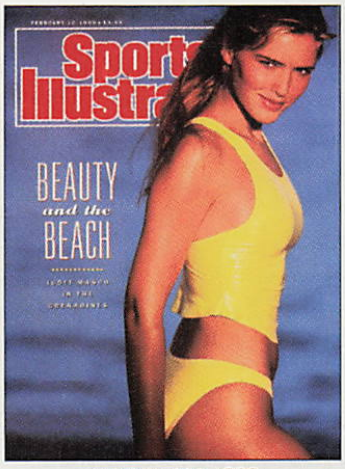
LENA KANSBOD, 1977
Maui



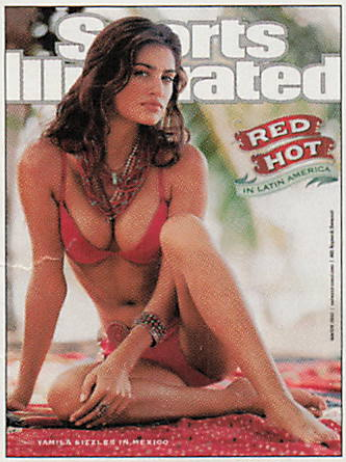
MARIA JOÃO, 1978
Bahia, Brazil



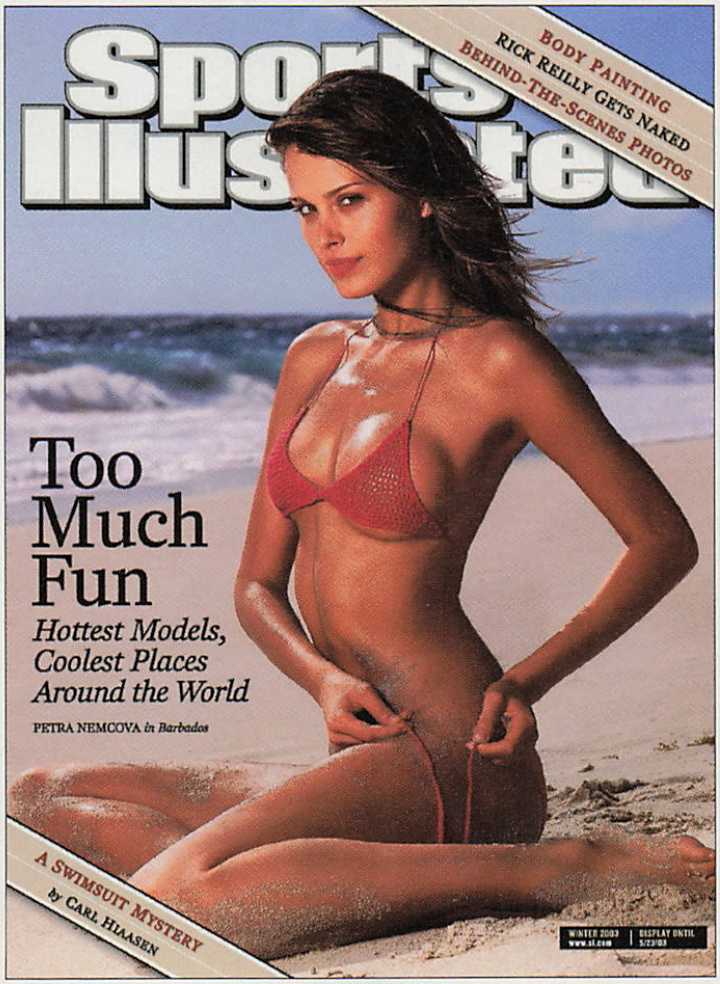
CHRISTIE BRINKLEY, 1979
The Seychelles



JUDIT MASCO, 1990
The Grenadines



YAMILA DIAZ-RAHI, 2002
Cruz de Loreto, Mexico



PETRA NEMCOVA, 2003
St. James, Barbados

> stats . . .

None of these numbers can be considered "vital," but they are cumulatively revealing—bits of information that, taken together, help tell the stories of the women who have made the SI Swimsuit cover something to behold.

Best-selling Cover

Tyra Banks 1997

Most Letters

2,947—regarding Maria João's 1978 cover shot

Most Covers

Elle Macpherson 4
Cheryl Tiegs 3
Kathy Ireland 3
Christie Brinkley 3
Paulina Porizkova 2
Tyra Banks 2
Daniela Pestova 2

Country of Origin

U.S. 13
Sweden 4
Czech Republic 3
Argentina 2
Germany 2
Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Mexico, New Zealand, Spain, Tahiti 1

Postcover Endorsements

Elsa Benitez . . . . . Taco Bell
Yamila Diaz-Rahi . . . . . Cover Girl
Ashley Montana . . . . . Diet Dr Pepper
Daniela Pestova . . . . . Budweiser

Onto the Big Screen . . .

Dayle Haddon . . . . *North Dallas Forty*
Carol Alt . . . . . *Private Parts*
Christie Brinkley . . . . . *National Lampoon's Vacation*
Paulina Porizkova . . . . . *Her Alibi*
Elle Macpherson . . . . . *Sirens*
Vendela . . . . . *Batman & Robin*
Tyra Banks . . . . . *Coyote Ugly*
Rachel Hunter . . . . . *Rock Star*
Heidi Klum . . . . . *Blow Dry*
Rebecca Romijn-Stamos . . *X-Men, X2*
Cheryl Tiegs . . . . . *The Brown Bunny*

Author, Author

Vendela . . . . . *Model Mommy*
Kathy Ireland . . . *Powerful Inspirations*

"I Was Pregnant!"

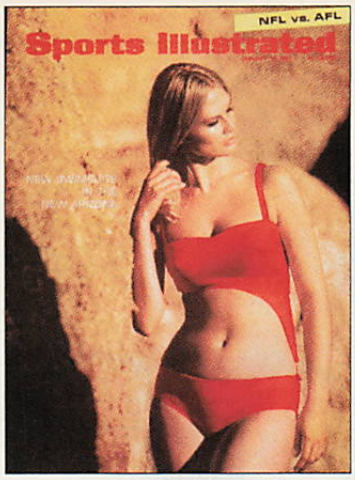
Rachel Hunter 1994
Kathy Ireland 1994

"I Married a Rock Star"

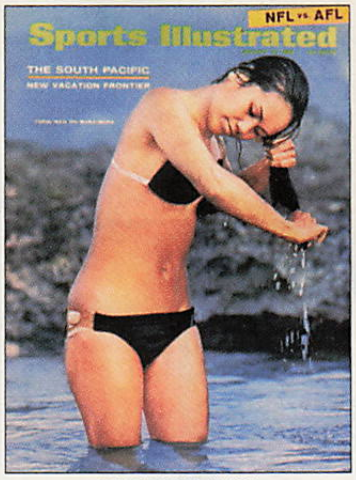
Christie Brinkley . . . . . Billy Joel
Rachel Hunter . . . . . Rod Stewart
Paulina Porizkova . . . . . Ric Ocasek

"I Married an SI Writer"

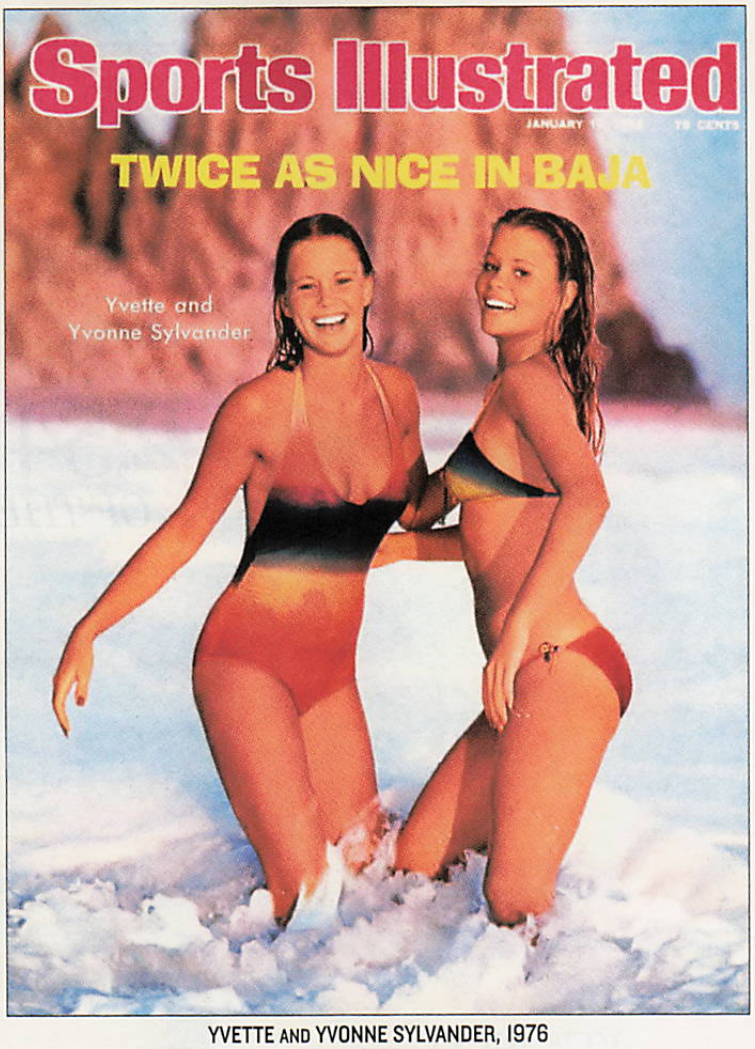
Sue Peterson . . . . . Jack Olsen



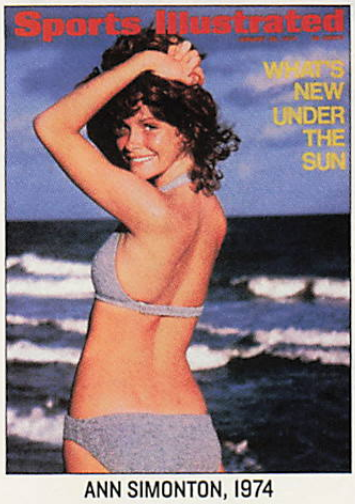
MARILYN TINDALL, 1967
Scottsdale, Ariz.



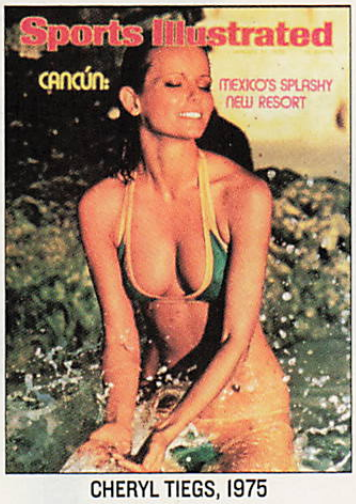
TURIA MAO, 1968
Bora-Bora



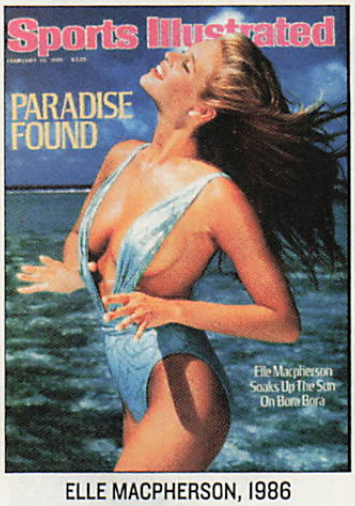
YVETTE AND YVONNE SYLVANDER, 1976
Baja California



ANN SIMONTON, 1974
Palmas del Mar, Puerto Rico



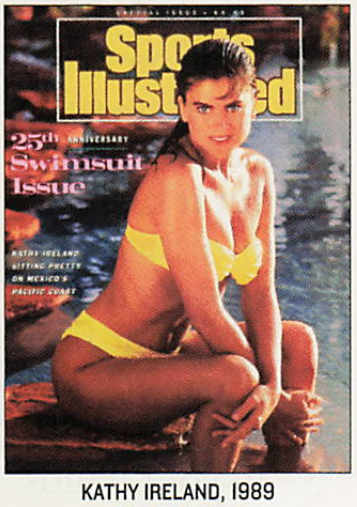
CHERYL TIEGS, 1975
Cancún, Mexico



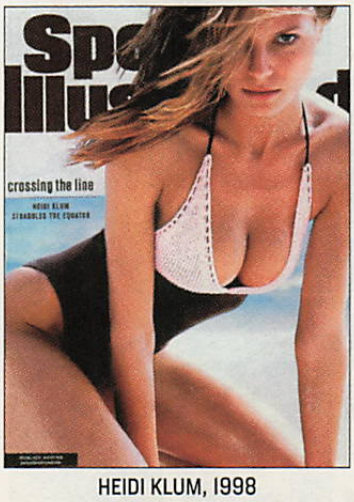
ELLE MACPHERSON, 1986
Bora-Bora

ELLE MACPHERSON, 1987
Dominican Republic

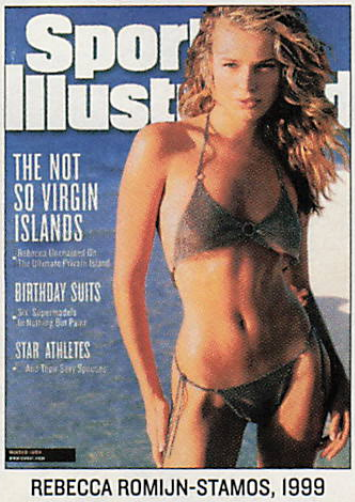
ELLE MACPHERSON, 1988
Thailand



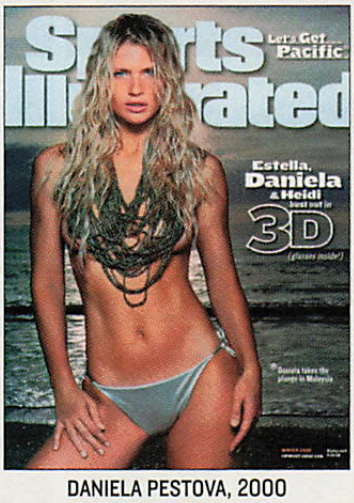
KATHY IRELAND, 1989
Baja California



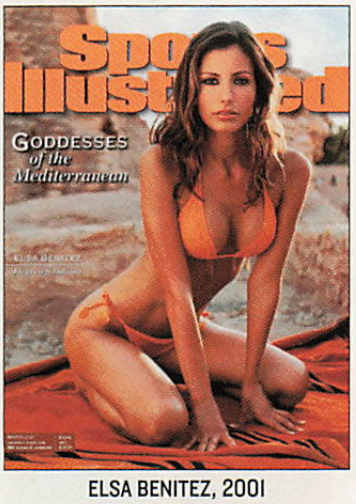
HEIDI KLUM, 1998
Vabbinfaru, Maldives



REBECCA ROMIJN-STAMOS, 1999
Necker Island, British Virgin Islands



DANIELA PESTOVA, 2000
Pangkor Laut, Malaysia



ELSA BENITEZ, 2001
Tamerza Village, Tunisia

(ALL 2,548* OF THEM) The Cover Index

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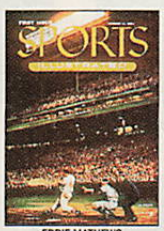
* SI.com *For more information on all SI covers, go to* **si.com/covers** † *A regional cover*



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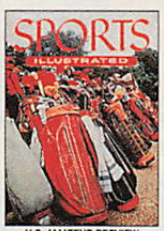

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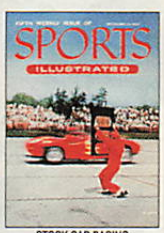
YACHT RACING



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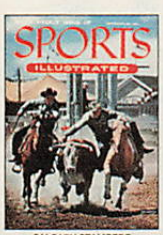

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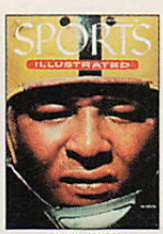
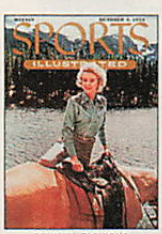
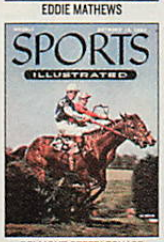


CALVIN JONES



COWGIRL FASHIONS

OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL



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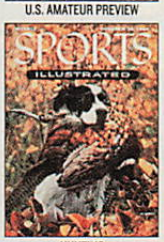
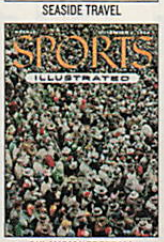


HUNTING



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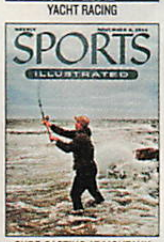
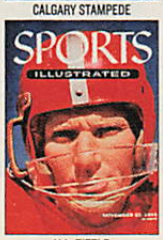
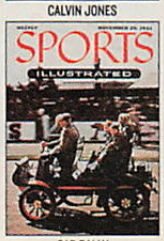


SURF-CASTING AT MONTAUK

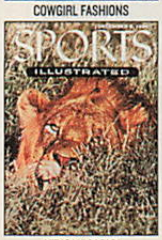
DUCKS



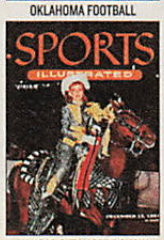
Y.A. TITTLE



CAR RALLY



AFRICAN SAFARI

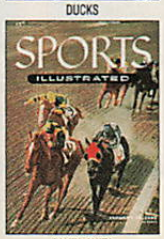


KANSAS CITY HORSE SHOW

SANTA CLARA BASKETBALL

SKIING IN SWITZERLAND

ROGER BANNISTER



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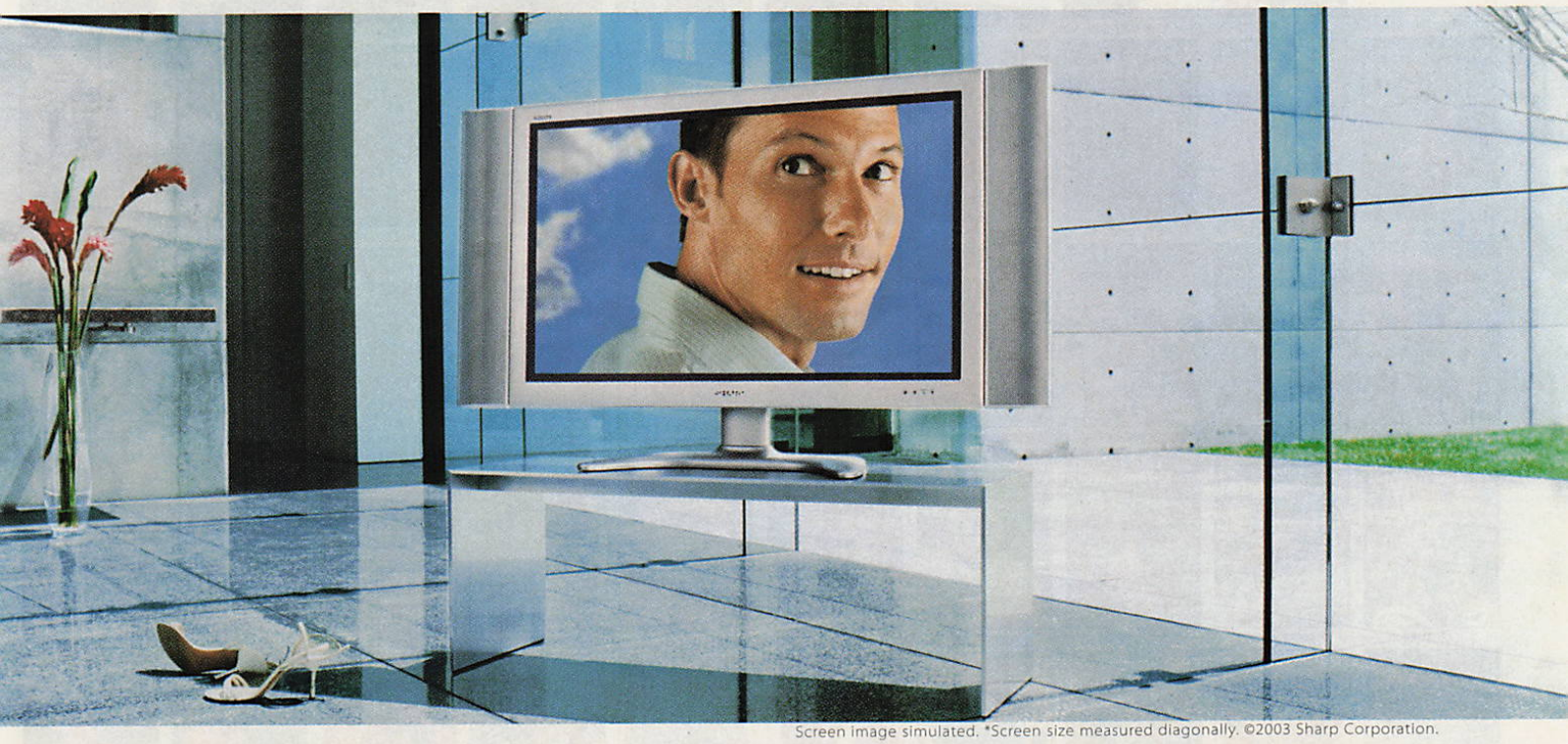

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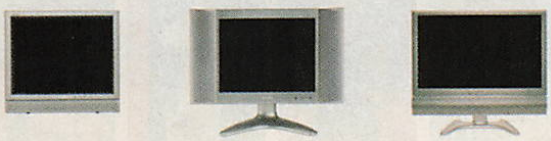

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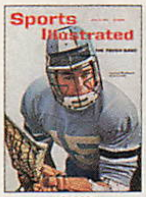
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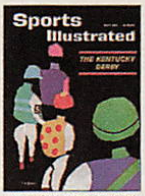
LUIS APARICIO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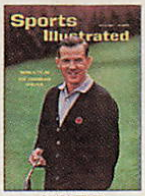
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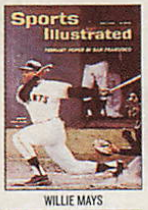
WATERSKIING

FLOYD PATTERSON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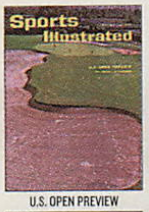
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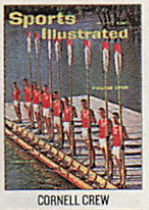
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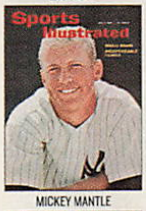
JACK NICKLAUS WINS OPEN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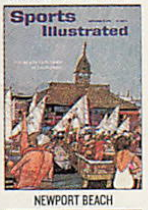
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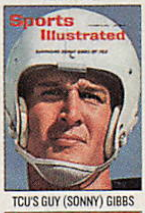
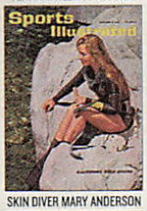
WORLD SERIES

TOMMY McDONALD


TCU'S GUY (SONNY) GIBBS

ELK HUNTING IN IDAHO

FRAN TARKENTON


SKIN DIVER MARY ANDERSON

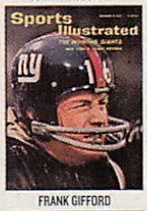
SAM SNEAD & PALMER

NICK PIETROSANTE

ARMY FOOTBALL

SKIING IN MONTANA

KENTUCKY'S COTTON NASH

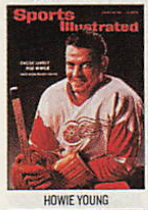

FRANK GIFFORD

ADVENTURE SPORTS

TERRY BAKER

PHIL RODGERS

TRAVEL: PUERTO VALLARTA


HOWIE YOUNG

VALERI BRUMEL

CATHY NAGEL

JERRY BARBER

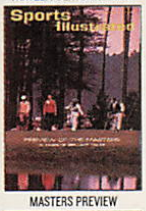
HORSEMAN REX ELLSWORTH

SANDY KOUFAX

CHUCK FERRIES

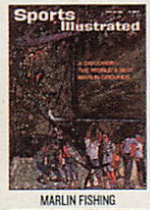
NCAA TOURNAMENT

SONNY LISTON


MASTERS PREVIEW

BASEBALL PREVIEW

WOMEN'S TENNIS


MARLIN FISHING

ART MAHAFFEY

KENTUCKY DERBY PREVIEW

YACHT ETIQUETTE

PAUL HORNUNG

INDY 500 PREVIEW

INDIANS OWNER BOB HOPE

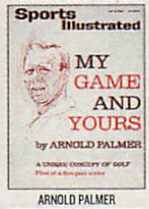
CASSIUS CLAY

JACK NICKLAUS

ROY FACE

JULIUS BOROS

CASTING TECHNIQUES



ARNOLD PALMER

DICK GROAT

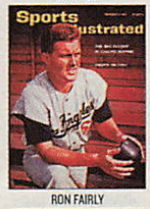
SONNY LISTON

NANCY VONDERHEIDE

ALFRED VANDERBILT

VIKINGS' QB RON VANDERKELEN

DENNIS RALSTON


RON FAIRLY

NFL PREVIEW

SAILING

MIAMI QB GEORGE MIRA

WHITEY FORD

DEER HUNTING IN CANADA

RONNIE BULL

TEXAS QB DUKE CARLISLE

NBA'S HOT ROOKIES

OFFENSIVE LINEMEN

ROUGH PLAY IN NFL

SKIING AT SUGARBUSH

WILLIE GALIMORE & MIKE DITKA

ROGER STAUBACH

COLLEGE BASKETBALL PREVIEW

PAUL LOWE & TOBIN ROTE

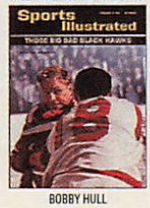
DECATHLETE C.K. YANG

PETE ROZELLE

WILLARD VS. DEMPSEY

SWIMSUIT FASHIONS

OLYMPIC PREVIEW


BOBBY HULL

SKIER EGON ZIMMERMANN

BRIDGE

CASSIUS CLAY

CASEY STENGEL & YOGI BERRA

CLAY VS. LISTON

GORDIE HOWE

TONY LEMA

WALT HAZZARD & JEFF MULLINS

JACK NICKLAUS

SANDY KOUFAX

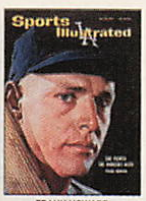
TEXAS TRACK CLUB

CLAUDE HARMON

KENTUCKY DERBY PREVIEW

AL KALINE

JOEY GIARDELLO

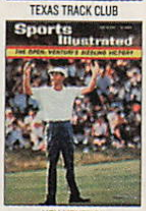

FRANK HOWARD

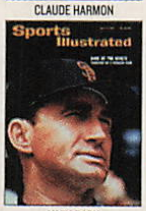
A.J. FOYT

BILL HARTACK

U.S. OPEN PREVIEW

LOYOLA MILER TOM O'HARA


KEN VENTURI


ALVIN DARK

TENNIS INSTRUCTION

SHIRLEY MACLAINE

TOMMY McDONALD

BETSY RAWLS

JOHNNY CALLISON

OILERS QB DON TRULL

AMERICA'S CUP

ORIOLES VS. WHITE SOX

Y.A. TITTLE

JIM RYUN

AUBURN'S JIMMY SIDLE

VIKINGS BACK TOMMY MASON

SUMMER OLYMPIC PREVIEW

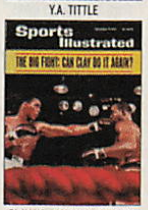
DICK BUTKUS

TOKYO OLYMPICS

TOMMY HEINSOHN

NOTRE DAME'S JOHN HUARTE

JOHN DAVID CROW



CLAY VS. LISTON II PREVIEW

HELMUT FALCH

ALEX KARRAS

BILL BRADLEY

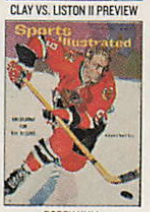
CARDINALS VS. BROWNS

KEN VENTURI

BROWNS QB FRANK RYAN

ORANGE BOWL

SWIMSUITS: SUE PETERSON


BOBBY HULL

GEORGE CHUVALO

JERRY WEST

GOLF AT SEMINOLE

BEST U.S. GOLF HOLES

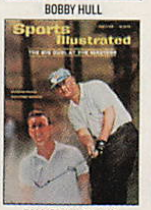
JIM BUNNING & BO BELINSKY

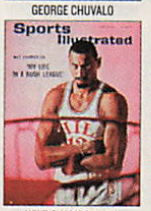
BILLY KIDD

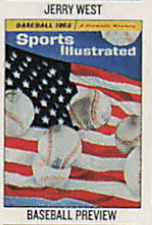
TONY LEMA

WILLIE PASTRANO

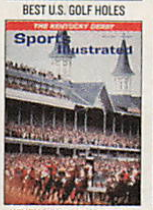
GAIL GOODRICH


PALMER & NICKLAUS


WILT CHAMBERLAIN


BASEBALL PREVIEW

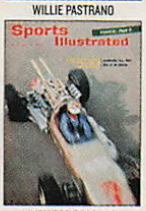
SONNY LISTON

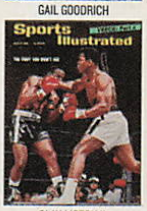

KENTUCKY DERBY PREVIEW

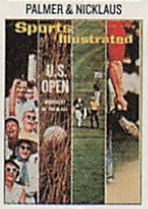
TEEN RUNNERS

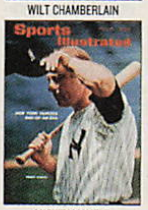
BILL VEECK

CLAY-LISTON II PREVIEW

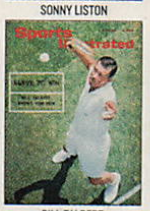

INDY 500 CRASHES


CLAY-LISTON II


U.S. OPEN


MICKEY MANTLE

HARVARD CREW

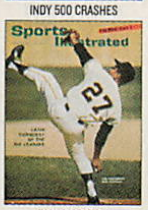

BILL TALBERT

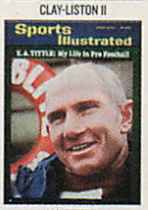
MAURY WILLS

JOE NAMATH

ARNOLD PALMER

POWERBOATING


JUAN MARICHAL

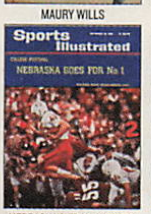

Y.A. TITTLE

TONY OLIVA

FRENCH MILER MICHEL JAZY

SUGAR RAY ROBINSON

FRAN TARKENTON



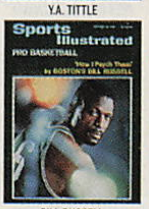
NEBRASKA'S FRANK SOLICH

FRANK RYAN

WORLD SERIES PREVIEW

KEN WILLARD

TOMMY NOBIS



BILL RUSSELL

ST. LOUIS CARDINALS

ARKANSAS'S HARRY JONES

SKIING IN WESTERN POWDER

CLAY-PATTERSON PREVIEW

DENNIS GAUBATZ

UCLA'S ZONE PRESS

LANCE ALWORTH

SANDY KOUFAX

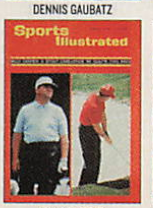
BOWL PREVIEWS

JIM TAYLOR

SWIMSUITS: SUNNY BIPPUS

IOWA BASKETBALL

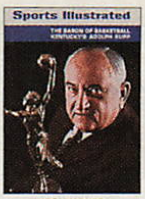
STAN MIKITA


BILLY CASPER

SCHOOLBOY STAR RICK MOUNT

JEAN-CLAUDE KILLY

LEO DUROCHER & EDDIE STANKY


ADOLPH RUPP

RICHMOND FLOWERS

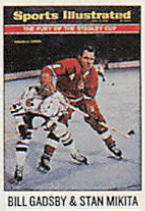
GARY PLAYER

NCAA FINALS

NICKLAUS, PLAYER, PALMER

ALI VS. GEORGE CHUVALO

DICK GROAT


BILL GADSBY & STAN MIKITA

PEGGY FLEMING

JOHN HAVLICEK

KENTUCKY DERBY

SAM McDOWELL

INDIANAPOLIS 500

HOUSTON ASTROS

KEN VENTURI

JIM RYUN

BILLY CASPER

OCEAN SAILING

ANDY ETCHEBARREN

EAST COAST SURFING

REDSKINS REVIVAL

JIM RYUN

DOLPHINS' LB FRANK EMANUEL

BEAR BRYANT

PAUL HORNUNG & JIM TAYLOR

ARTHUR ASHE

HARRY WALKER

RUDY BUKICH & GALE SAYERS

GARY BEBAN

GAYLORD PERRY

L.A. RAMS

BROOKS & FRANK ROBINSON

JOE NAMATH

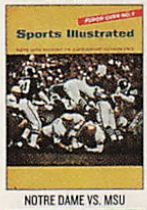
ELGIN BAYLOR

BART STARR

TERRY HANRATTY

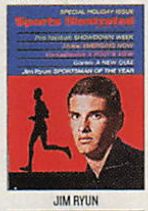
TOP U.S. SKI SLOPES

BROWNS' FS ROSS FICHTNER


NOTRE DAME VS. MSU

LEW ALCINDOR

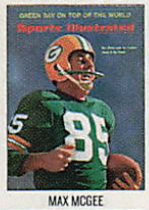
BOSTON PATRIOTS


JIM RYUN

BOWL GAMES PREVIEW

BART STARR

SWIMSUIT: MARILYN TINDALL


MAX MCGEE

ROD GILBERT

MUHAMMAD ALI

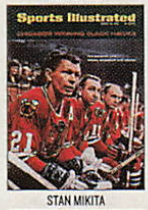
RICK BARRY

BOB SEAGREN

PRINCETON BASKETBALL

ARNOLD & WINNIE PALMER

JIM NASH


STAN MIKITA

JEAN-CLAUDE KILLY

LEW ALCINDOR

JACK NICKLAUS

MAURY WILLS

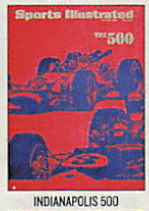
RICK BARRY

JIM HALL

KEN BERRY & MICKEY MANTLE

L.A. DODGERS

TOMMIE SMITH


INDIANAPOLIS 500

AL KALINE

BILLY CASPER

WELTERWEIGHT JOE HARRIS

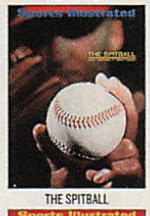
JACK NICKLAUS

ROBERTO CLEMENTE

MUHAMMAD ALI

FRAN TARKENTON

SURFING IN HAWAII


THE SPITBALL

GAY BREWER

GARY CUOZZO & JIM TAYLOR

CARL YASTRZEMSKI

AMERICA'S CUP

TIM McCARVER

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW

TOMMY MASON

NINO BENVENUTI

TEXAS VS. USC

PURDUE'S MIKE PHIPPS

LOU BROCK

NBA PREVIEW

TENNESSEE VS. ALABAMA

DAN REEVES

OLYMPIC PREVIEW

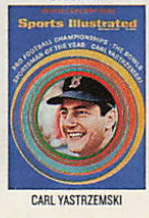
GARY BEBAN & O.J. SIMPSON

JIM HART

COLLEGE BASKETBALL PREVIEW

BOBBY ORR

ROMAN GABRIEL


CARL YASTRZEMSKI

NFL PLAYOFFS

SWIMSUITS: TURIA MAU

VINCE LOMBARDI
LEW ALCINDOR
BILLY KIDD & JIMMY HEUGA
BOBBY HULL
PEGGY FLEMING
CURTIS TURNER
PETE MARAVICH
BASEBALL'S ROOKIES
BILL BRADLEY
JULIUS BOROS
LEW ALCINDOR
L.A. KINGS
LOU BROOK
ROBERTO DICINCENZO'S OPEN
ELGIN BAYLOR & JERRY WEST
RON SWOBODA
INDIANAPOLIS 500
DERBY DRUG SCANDAL
PETE ROSE
DAVE PATRICK
U.S. OPEN PREVIEW
DON DRYSDALE
LEE TREVINO
THE BLACK ATHLETE
TED WILLIAMS ON HITTING
RAY NITSCHKE
MARK SPITZ
DENNY McLAIN
HARNESS RACING
PAUL BROWN
CURT FLOOD
ROD LAVER
KEN HARRELSON
LEROY KEYES
DON MEREDITH
AL KALINE
JIM RYUN & KIP KEINO
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS
O.J. SIMPSON
OLYMPIC PREVIEW
BOB BROWN & FORREST GREGG
EARL MONROE
BUCKEYE BRUCE JANKOWSKI
JEAN-CLAUDE KILLY
EARL MORRALL
COLLEGE BASKETBALL PREVIEW
JOE NAMATH
GREEN BAY PACKERS
BILL RUSSELL
TOM MATTE
SWIMSUIT: JAMEE BECKER
JOE NAMATH
WILT CHAMBERLAIN
BOBBY ORR
SANTA CLARA'S BUD OGDEN
BOB LUNN
TIGHT RACE IN NBA EAST
VINCE LOMBARDI
AMATEUR TRACK SCANDAL
TED WILLIAMS
RICHIE GUERIN & JEFF MULLINS
LEW ALCINDOR
GORDON (RED) BERENSON
BILL FREEHAN
GEORGE ARCHER
BILL RUSSELL
MUHAMMAD ALI
JOHN HAVLICEK
L.A. DODGERS
GRIZZLY BEARS
WATER SPORTS
LEE TREVINO
JOE NAMATH
ATHLETES & DRUGS
RON SANTO
REGGIE JACKSON
O.J. SIMPSON
BILLY MARTIN
JURGENSEN & LOMBARDI
BILL RUSSELL
JOE NAMATH
HANK AARON
O.J. SIMPSON
ARNOLD PALMER
ERNIE BANKS & PETE ROSE
OHIO STATE QB REX KERN
JIM TURNER
USC QB JIMMY JONES
FRANK ROBINSON
GEORGIA'S BRUCE KEMP
BROOKS ROBINSON
LEW ALCINDOR
MINNESOTA VIKINGS
OKLAHOMA'S STEVE OWENS
SKIING IN ITALY
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS
PETE MARAVICH
WALT FRAZIER
TEXAS QB JAMES STREET

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TOM SEAVER

1970

VIKINGS BACK DAVE OSBORN

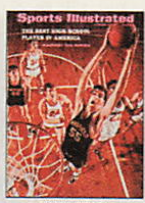
SWIMSUIT: CHERYL TIEGS

LEN DAWSON

BOB COUSY

POLLUTION

TERRY BRADSHAW

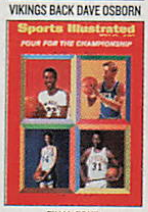


TOM McMILLEN

DENNY McCLAIN

ED GIACOMIN

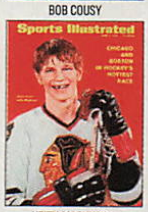
LEW ALCINDOR



FINAL FOUR

RICHIE ALLEN

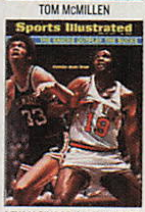
ARTIS GILMORE & SIDNEY WICKS



KEITH MAGNUSON

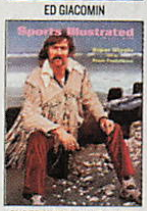
JERRY KOOSMAN

BILLY CASPER



LEW ALCINDOR & WILLIS REED

BOBBY ORR



SUPER HIPPIE DAVID SMITH

DAVE DEBUSSCHERE

3,000-HIT CLUB

NICKLAUS & PALMER

AL UNSER

STEVE PREFONTAINE

TONY CONIGLIARO

TONY JACKLIN

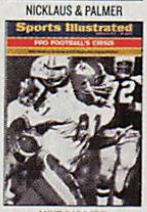
AAU CHAMPIONSHIPS

JOHNNY BENCH

JOE KAPP

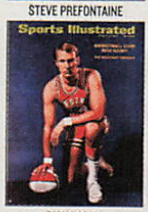
WILLIE MAYS

RUSSIAN TRACK MEET



MIKE GARRETT

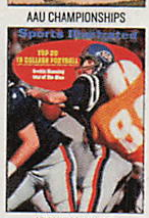
JOE NAMATH & VICTORIA GEORGE



RICK BARRY

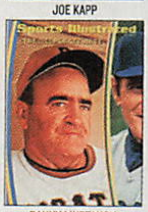
COWBOYS BACK LES SHY

BUD HARRELSON

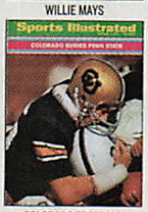


ARCHIE MANNING

DICK BUTKUS

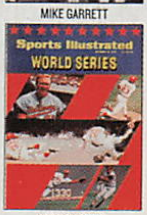


DANNY MURTAUGH

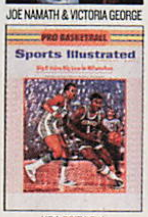


COLORADO FOOTBALL

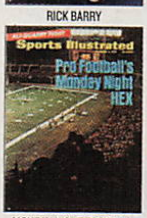
ALEX KARRAS



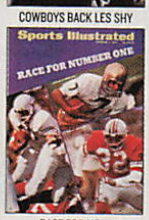
WORLD SERIES



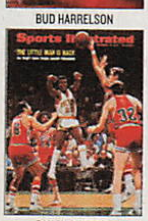
NBA PREVIEW



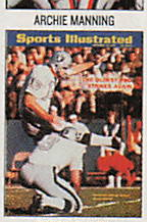
MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL



RACE FOR NO. 1



CALVIN MURPHY

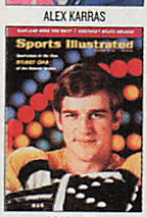


GEORGE BLANDA

SIDNEY WICKS

ROMAN GABRIEL

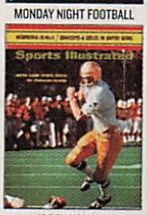
TEXAS'S STEVE WORSTER



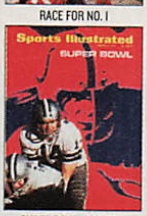
BOBBY ORR

71

JOHN ROCHE



JOE THEISMANN

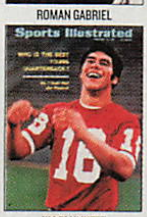


SUPER BOWL PREVIEW

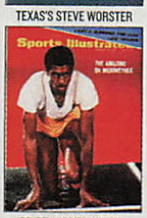
COLTS KICKER JIM O'BRIEN

SWIMSUIT: TANNIA RUBIANO

LEW ALCINDOR & WILLIS REED



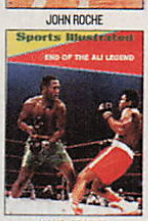
JIM PLUNKETT



DR. DELANO MERIWETHER

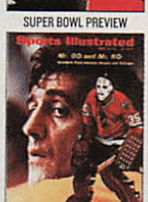
ALI-FRAZIER PREVIEW

JACK NICKLAUS



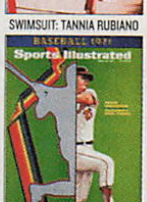
ALI VS. FRAZIER

WES PARKER



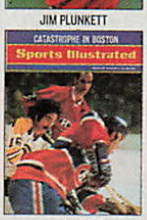
PHIL & TONY ESPOSITO

UCLA'S STEVE PATTERSON

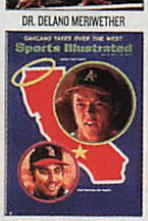


BOOG POWELL

NBA PLAYOFFS

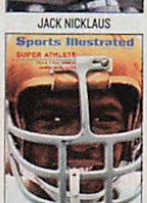


NHL PLAYOFFS

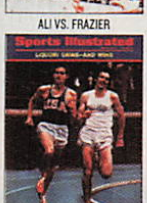


DAVE DUNCAN & JIM FREGOSI

OSCAR ROBERTSON

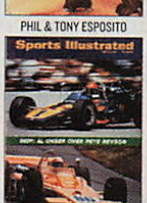


UCLA'S JAMES McALISTER

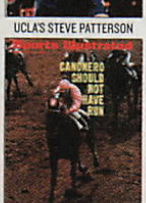


MARTY LIQUORI & JIM RYUN

VIDA BLUE



INDY 500



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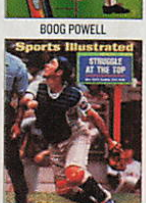
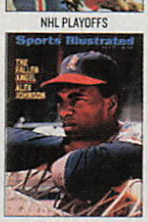


METS CATCHER JERRY GROTE

LEE TREVINO



ALEX JOHNSON

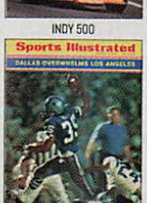
EVONNE GOOLAGONG

GEORGE BLANDA

MUHAMMAD ALI

WILLIE STARGELL

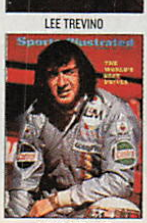
MIKE PETERSON



CALVIN HILL

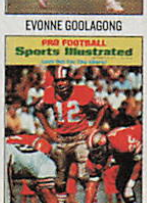
STEVE McQUEEN

FERGUSON JENKINS

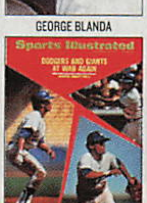


JACKIE STEWART

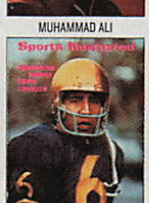
LSU'S TOMMY CASANOVA



JOHN BRODIE



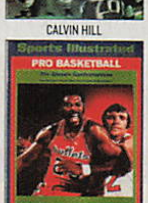
MAURY WILLS



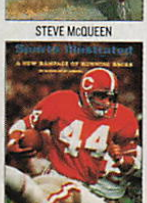
HUSKIES QB SONNY SIXKILLER

JOE GREENE

FRANK ROBINSON



GUS JOHNSON & DAVE DEBUSSCHERE



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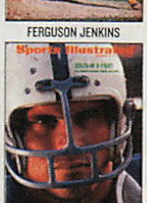


BALTIMORE'S NORM BULAICH

OLYMPIC UPDATE

NEBRASKA VS. OKLAHOMA

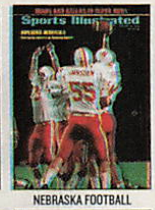
TOM BURLESON

ALABAMA'S JOHNNY MUSSO

GAIL GOODRICH

LEE TREVINO

GARO YEPREMIAN

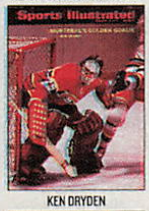

NEBRASKA FOOTBALL

SWIMSUIT: SHEILA ROSCOE

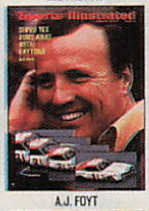
DUANE THOMAS

ANNIE HENNING

DAVE COWENS & WALT FRAZIER


KEN DRYDEN

MARQUETTE'S ALLIE McGUIRE


A.J. FOYT

BILL WALTON

JOHNNY BENCH

NCAA TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

VIDA BLUE

BILL WALTON

JOE TORRE

JACK NICKLAUS

NBA PLAYOFFS

WILLIE DAVIS

PHIL ESPOSITO & BOBBY ORR

WILT CHAMBERLAIN

WILLIE MAYS

LOUIE JACOBS

INDY 500

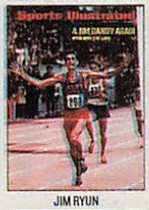
DICK ALLEN

BOBBY HULL

JACK NICKLAUS

STEVE BLASS

JOHNNY UNITAS


JIM RYUN

TOMMY PROTHRO

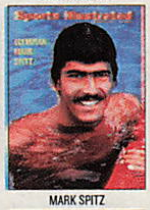
ROBYN SMITH

LARRY CSONKA & JIM KIICK

BOBBY FISCHER

SPARKY LYLE

SUMMER OLYMPICS


MARK SPITZ

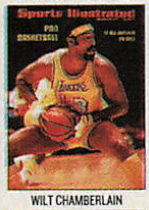
NEBRASKA'S BOB DEVANEY

WALT GARRISON

CARLTON FISK

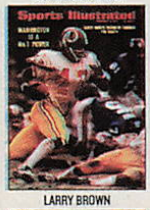
OKLAHOMA'S GREG PRUITT

JOE NAMATH


WILT CHAMBERLAIN

CATFISH HUNTER

N.C. STATE'S DAVE & DON BUCKEY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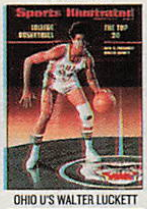
JOHN HAVLICEK

ALABAMA'S TERRY DAVIS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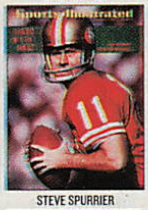
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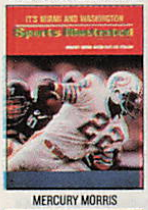
CAMPY RUSSELL

LEE ROY JORDAN

BILLIE JEAN KING & JOHN WOODEN


MERCURY MORRIS

DOUG COLLINS

BOB GRIESE

SWIMSUIT: DAYLE HADDON

BILL WALTON

STEVE SMITH

KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR

GIL PERREAULT

SPORTS ON BROADWAY

BILL MELTON

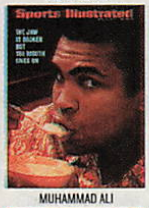
OLGA KORBUT

NCAA TOURNAMENT

HENRI RICHARD

STEVE CARLTON

EARL MONROE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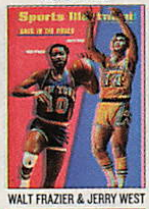
CHRIS SPEIER


WALT FRAZIER & JERRY WEST

MARK & SUZY SPITZ

BOBBY RIGGS

SPORTS ARE UNFAIR TO WOMEN

WILBUR WOOD

SECRETARIAT

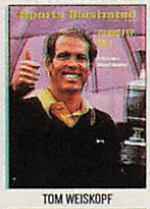
GEORGE FOREMAN

JOHNNY MILLER

BOBBY MURCER & RON BLOMBERG

GEORGE ALLEN

BILLIE JEAN KING


TOM WEISKOPF

CARLTON FISK

HOUSTON'S JOHN MATUSZAK

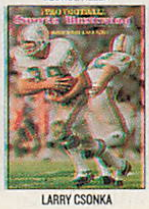
RACING FOR CHILDREN

BILL RUSSELL & CLAUDE OSTEEN

DUANE THOMAS

BOB RIGBY

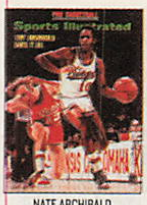
COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW

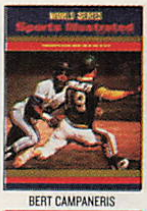

LARRY CSONKA

DANNY MURTAGH

ANTHONY DAVIS

FRAN TARKENTON


NATE ARCHIBALD

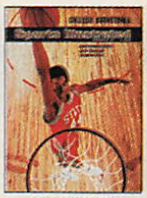

BERT CAMPANERIS

O.J. SIMPSON

ANTHONY DAVIS

PETE MARAVICH

PHIL ESPOSITO


DAVID THOMPSON

GARY RUTLEDGE & BEAR BRYANT

LEN ELMORE & BILL WALTON

MARV HUBBARD

JACKIE STEWART

74

FRAN TARKENTON

JULIUS ERVING

LARRY CSONKA

SWIMSUIT: ANN SIMONTON

ALI VS. FRAZIER II

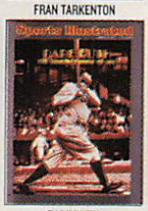
BEN CRENSHAW

JOHN HAVLICEK

BILL WALTON

JIMMY CONNORS

GORDIE HOWE


BABE RUTH

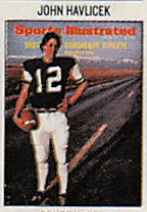
WALTON & TOM BURLESON

DAVID THOMPSON & WALTON

PETE ROSE

HANK AARON

GARY PLAYER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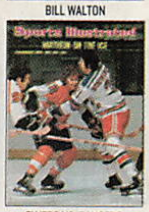
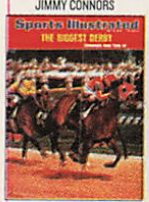

FLYERS VS. RANGERS


CANNONADE'S DERBY

JOHN HAVLICEK

JIM WYNN

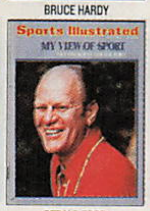
JOHNNY RUTHERFORD

JOHNNY MILLER

REGGIE JACKSON

HALE IRWIN

ROD CAREW


GERALD FORD

CONNORS & EVERT

LOU BROCK

TERRY BRADSHAW

NFL STRIKE

MIKE MARSHALL

LEE TREVINO

JOHN NEWCOMBE

EVEL KNIEVEL

ARCHIE GRIFFIN

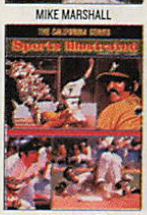
O.J. SIMPSON

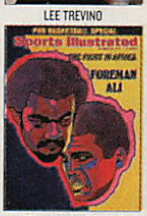
JOE GILLIAM

NOTRE DAME'S TOM CLEMENTS

CATFISH HUNTER

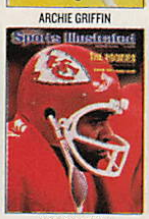
ABDUL-JABBAR & WALTON


WORLD SERIES


FOREMAN-ALI PREVIEW

OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL

FOREMAN VS. ALI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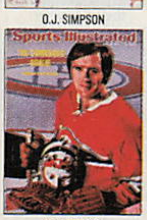

KEN DRYDEN

COLLEGE BASKETBALL PREVIEW

ANTHONY DAVIS

RICK BARRY

MUHAMMAD ALI

75

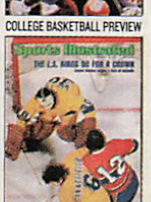
FRANCO HARRIS

BILL TILDEN

TERRY BRADSHAW

SWIMSUIT: CHERYL TIEGS

INDIANA'S JOHN LASKOWSKI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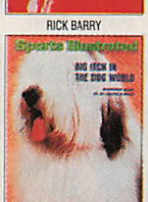
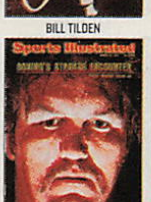
DAVE MEYERS


WESTMINSTER DOG SHOW

REDS' PITCHERS

LEE ELDER

PHIL FORD & MO RIVERS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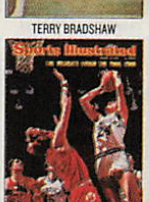
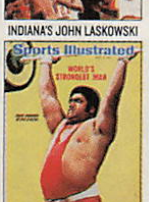

KENTUCKY'S MIKE FLYNN

STEVE GARVEY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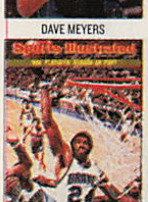
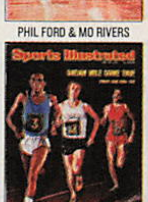
JACK NICKLAUS


GARFIELD HEARD

JIMMY CONNORS

FOOLISH PLEASURE

A.J. FOYT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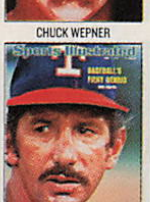
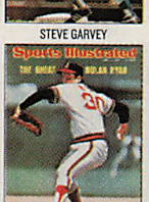
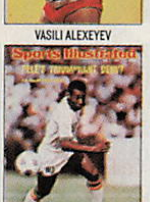

BILLY MARTIN

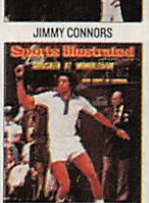
ROCKY BLEIER

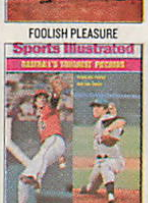

NOLAN RYAN


PELÉ

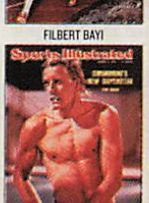
LOU GRAHAM

FRED LYNN


ARTHUR ASHE


JIM PALMER & TOM SEAVER

WFL'S MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES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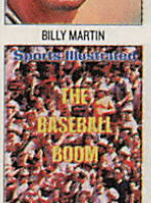
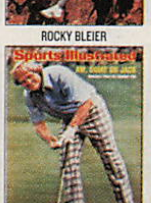


BASEBALL ON THE UPSWING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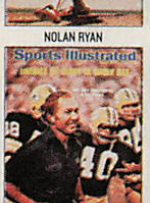
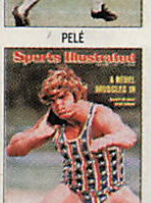
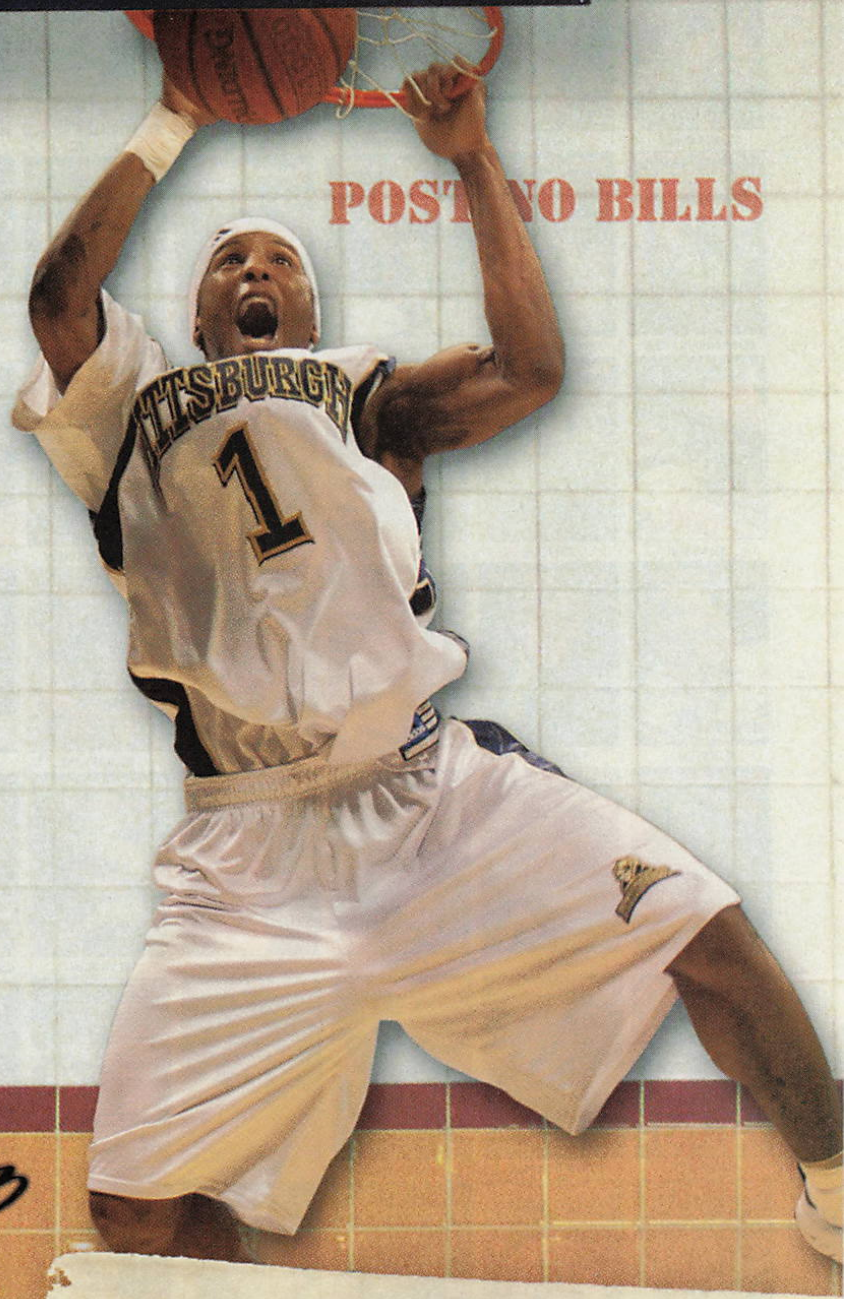

BART STARR


BRIAN OLDFIELD

OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL

2003 Coaches vs. Cancer Classic

POST NO BILLS



November 13–14, 2003
New York City
Madison Square Garden

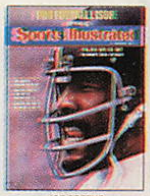
→ more info at
coachesvscancer.com

LIVE COVERAGE ON ESPN2!
GAMES TIP OFF AT 7PM BOTH NIGHTS

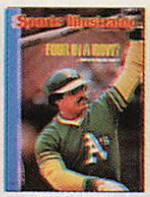
NOV. 13	MEMPHIS VS. WAKE FOREST MARQUETTE VS. ST. JOHN'S
NOV. 14	PITTSBURGH VS. ALABAMA GONZAGA VS. SAINT JOSEPH'S

AmericanAirlines®
The Official Airline of the Coaches vs. Cancer Classic
TIAA CREF
CRAVE CALVIN KLEIN
NABC
American Cancer Society
PRODUCED BY GAZELLE

DON KING


JOE GREENE

NOTRE DAME'S RICK SLAGER


REGGIE JACKSON

THRILLA IN MANILA

LUIS TIANT & JOHNNY BENCH

GEORGE McGINNIS

REDS WIN WORLD SERIES

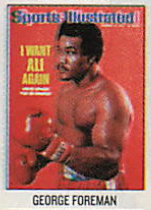
FRAN TARKENTON

VIOLENCE IN HOCKEY

CHUCK MUNCIE

KENT BENSON

TEXAS A&M'S BUBBA BEAN

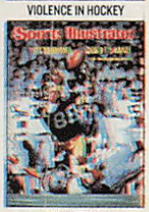

GEORGE FOREMAN

PETE ROSE

PRESTON PEARSON

FRANCO HARRIS

SWIMSUIT: SYLVANDER TWINS

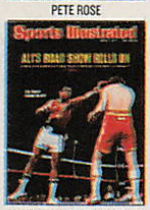

LYNN SWANN

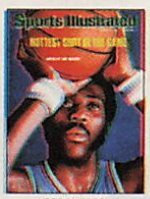
OLYMPIAN SHEILA YOUNG

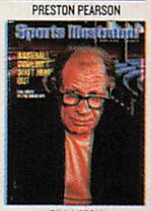
TENNESSEE BASKETBALL

FRANZ KLAMMER

BOBBY CLARKE


ALI VS. JEAN-PIERRE COOPMAN


BOB McADOO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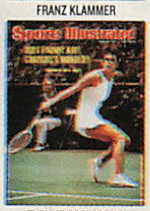
TRACY AUSTIN

KENT BENSON

SCOTT MAY

JOE MORGAN

RAY FLOYD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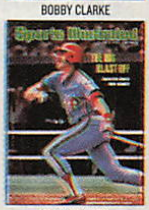
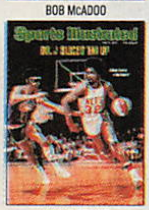
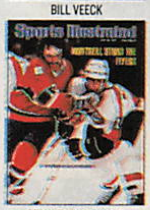

MIKE SCHMIDT

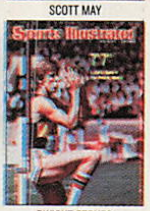
BOLD FORBES'S DERBY


JULIUS ERVING


STANLEY CUP FINALS

LOU PINIELLA & CARLTON FISK

ALVAN ADAMS & DAVE COWENS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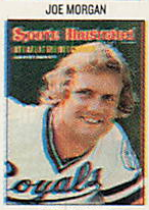
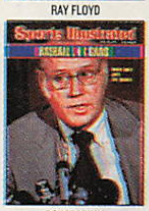
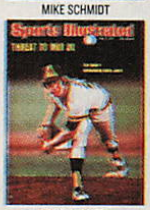

GEORGE BRETT


BOWIE KUHN

FRANK SHORTER


RANDY JONES

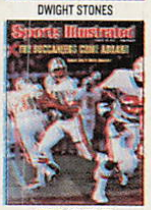
U.S. OLYMPIANS

MONTREAL OLYMPICS

NADIA COMANECI

BRUCE JENNER

CALVIN HILL


STEVE SPURRIER

REGGIE JACKSON

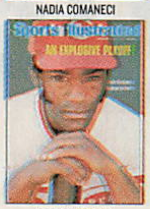
RICK LEACH

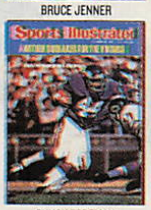
BERT JONES

JIMMY CONNORS

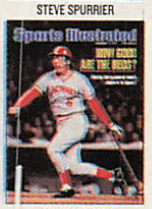
KEN NORTON

MARYLAND'S MARK MANGES


GEORGE FOSTER


CHUCK FOREMAN

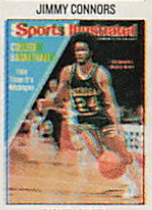
DAVE COWENS & DR. J

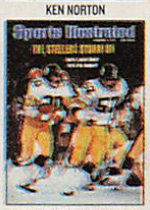

JOHNNY BENCH

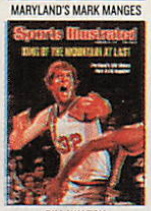
TONY DORSETT

DAVID THOMPSON

WALTER PAYTON


RICKEY GREEN


ROCKY BLEIER & SAM DAVIS

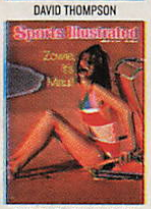

BILL WALTON

CHRIS EVERT

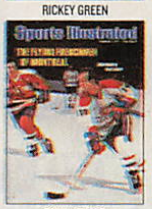
CLARENCE DAVIS

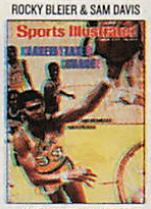
TONY DORSETT

KENNY STABLER


SWIMSUIT: LENA KANSBOD

BILL CARTWRIGHT


GUY LAFLEUR

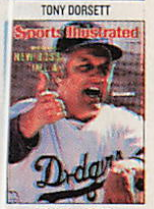

KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR

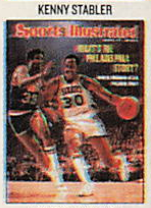
YEAR IN REVIEW

NBC'S OLYMPIC DEAL

CALE YARBOROUGH

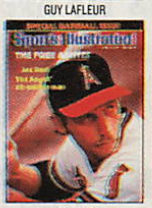
STEVE CAUTHEN


TOMMY LASORDA

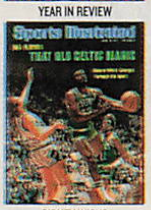

GEORGE McGINNIS

RANGERS' BUMP WILLS

MARQUETTE'S BUTCH LEE

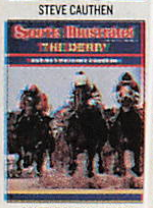

JOE RUDI

TOM WATSON


SIDNEY WICKS

REGGIE JACKSON

GERRY CHEEVERS & BRAD PARK


SEATTLE SLEW'S DERBY

WALTON & ABDUL-JABBAR

DAVE PARKER

MARK FIDRYCH & BIG BIRD

BILL WALTON

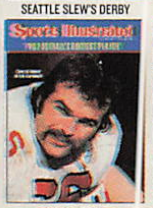
SLEW'S TRIPLE CROWN

TOM SEAVER

TED TURNER

BJORN BORG

ROD CAREW & TED WILLIAMS

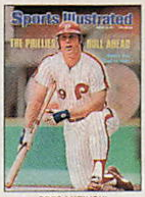

CONRAD DOBLER

COLORADO RAPIDS

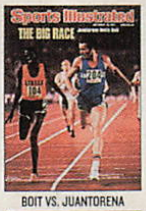
CARLOS MONZON

SADAHARU OH

LANNY WADKINS


GREG LUZINSKI

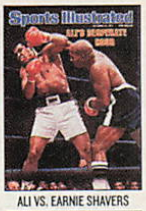
ROSS BROWNER


BOIT VS. JUANTORENA

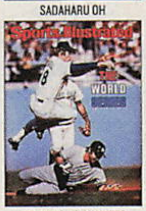
KENNY STABLER

ROBERTO DURAN

BILLY SIMMS


ALI VS. EARNIE SHAVERS

DENVER'S RUBIN CARTER

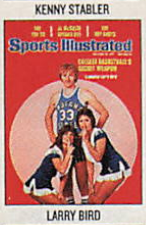

DODGERS VS. YANKEES

MAURICE LUCAS

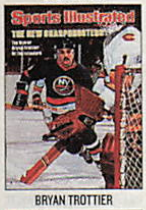
SEMI-TOUGH

SWINDLE AT BELMONT

AFC VS. NFC


LARRY BIRD

EARL CAMPBELL


BRYAN TROTTIER

STEVE CAUTHEN

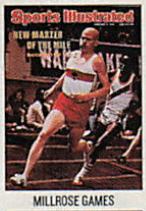
MARK VAN EEGHEN

NOTRE DAME'S TERRY EURICK

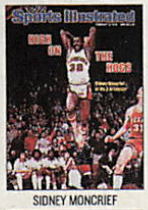
SWIMSUIT: MARIA JOAO

RANDY WHITE & HARVEY MARTIN

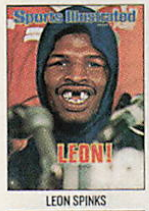
ROBERTO DURAN

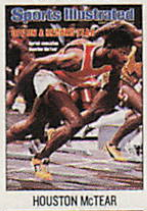

MILLROSE GAMES

YEAR IN REVIEW


SIDNEY MONCRIEF

WALTER DAVIS

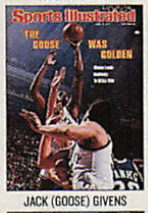

LEON SPINKS


HOUSTON McTEAR

DUKE'S GENE BANKS

CLINT HURDLE

JACK NICKLAUS


JACK (GOOSE) GIVENS

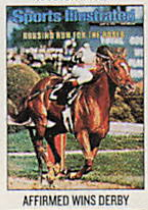
GEORGE FOSTER & ROD CAREW

GARY PLAYER

MARK FIDRYCH

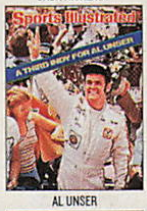
GARY PLAYER

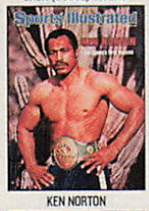
ELVIN HAYES

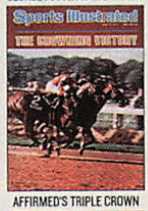

AFFIRMED WINS DERBY

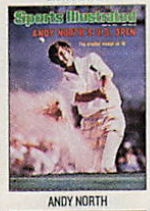
MARVIN WEBSTER

LARRY ROBINSON & KEN DRYDEN


AL UNSER


KEN NORTON


AFFIRMED'S TRIPLE CROWN


ANDY NORTH

ARGENTINA WINS WORLD CUP

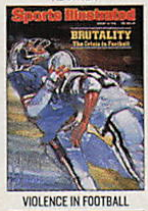
NANCY LOPEZ

MONEY IN SPORTS

JACK NICKLAUS

BILLY MARTIN

PETE ROSE

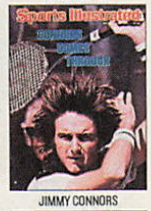

VIOLENCE IN FOOTBALL

BILL WALTON

BALLOONING

ROGER STAUBACH

LOU HOLTZ


JIMMY CONNORS

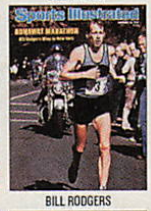
ALI VS. SPINKS REMATCH

CHARLES WHITE

TERRY BRADSHAW

MARVIN WEBSTER

THE WORLD SERIES


BILL RODGERS

CONFESSIONS OF A FIXER

PENN STATE'S CHUCK FUSINA

NEBRASKA'S RICK BERNS

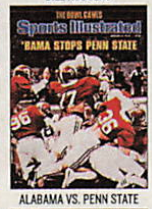
MAGIC JOHNSON

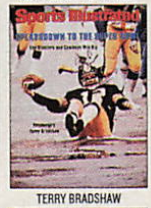
EARL CAMPBELL

ICE CLIMBER JEFF LOWE

JOHN McENROE

JACK NICKLAUS


ALABAMA VS. PENN STATE

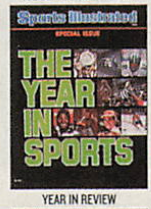

TERRY BRADSHAW

OHIO STATE'S HERB WILLIE

ROCKY BLEIER

SWIMSUIT: CHRISTIE BRINKLEY

DANNY LOPEZ


YEAR IN REVIEW

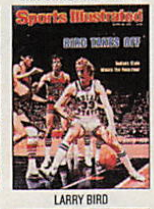
MOSES MALONE

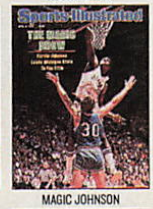
EAMONN COGHLAN

SPRING TRAINING

UNC'S DUDLEY BRADLEY

CHICAGO'S HARRY CHAPPAS


LARRY BIRD


MAGIC JOHNSON

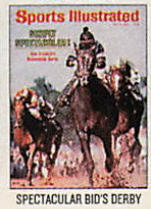
JIM RICE & DAVE PARKER

DENIS POTVIN

FUZZY ZOELLER

GEORGE BAMBERGER

ELVIN HAYES


SPECTACULAR BID'S DERBY

COSMOS' GIORGIO CHINAGLIA

PETE ROSE

TOM WATSON

GUS WILLIAMS

EARL WEAVER

HALE IRWIN

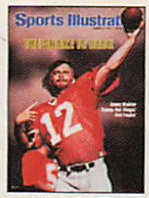
DURAN VS. PALOMINO

EAMONN COGHLAN

BJORN BORG

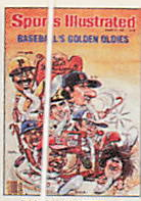
NOLAN RYAN

SEBASTIAN COE


KENNY STABLER

SI'S SILVER ANNIVERSARY

JOHN JEFFERSON


BASEBALL'S VETERANS

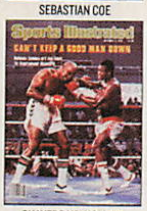
EARL CAMPBELL

BILLY SIMS & CHARLES WHITE

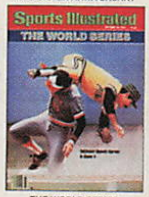
TRACY AUSTIN

ND'S VAGAS FERGUSON

DEWEY SELMON


SHAVERS VS. HOLMES

BILL WALTON



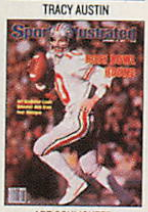
THE WORLD SERIES

BILL RODGERS

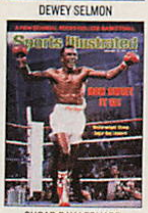
FRANCO HARRIS

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

MAGIC JOHNSON


ART SCHLICHTER

HOOSIERS BASKETBALL


SUGAR RAY LEONARD

RALPH SAMPSON

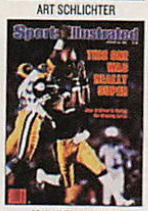
STARGELL & BRADSHAW

1980 »

RICKY BELL

L.C. GREENWOOD

GORDIE HOWE


JOHN STALLWORTH

SWIMSUIT: CHRISTIE BRINKLEY

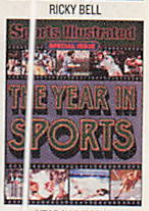
ERIC HEIDEN

MARY DECKER

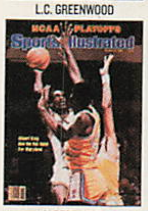
ERIC HEIDEN

MIRACLE ON ICE

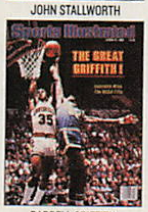
JIM CRAIG



YEAR IN REVIEW

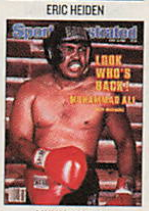

ALBERT KING

KIRK GIBSON



DARRELL GRIFFITH

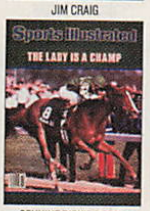
KEITH HERNANDEZ


MUHAMMAD ALI

SEVE BALLESTEROS

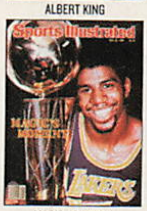
LARRY BIRD & JULIUS ERVING

KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR



GENUINE RISK'S DERBY

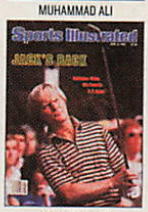
ARE ATHLETES STUDENTS?


MAGIC JOHNSON

JOHNNY RUTHERFORD

DARRELL PORTER

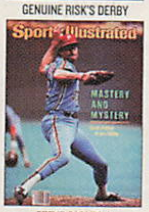
ROBERTO DURAN


JACK NICKLAUS

DURAN VS. LEONARD

STEVE SCOTT

BJORN BORG



STEVE CARLTON

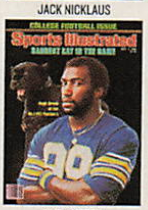
MOSCOW OLYMPICS

REGGIE JACKSON

SEBASTIAN COE

J.R. RICHARD

YANKEES VS. ORIOLES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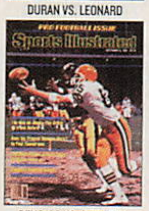
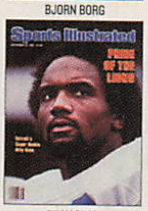

BENGALS VS. STEELERS

JOHN McENROE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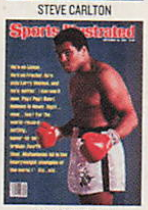
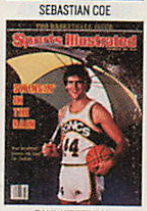

MUHAMMAD ALI

GARY CARTER

ALI VS. HOLMES


PAUL WESTPHAL

MIKE SCHMIDT

ALBERTO SALAZAR

L.C. GREENWOOD

HERSCHEL WALKER

SUGAR RAY LEONARD

COLLEGE BASKETBALL PREVIEW

VINCE FERRAGAMO

LLOYD FREE

U.S. OLYMPIC HOCKEY TEAM

81 »

DAVE WINFIELD

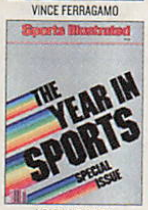
CHUCK MUNCIE

MARK VAN EEGHEN

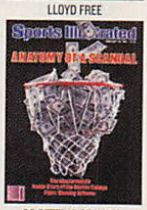
BOBBY KNIGHT

ROD MARTIN

SWIMSUIT: CHRISTIE BRINKLEY

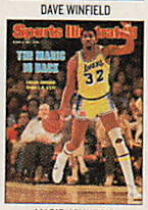


YEAR IN REVIEW


BC BETTING SCANDAL

BOBBY CARPENTER

J.R. RICHARD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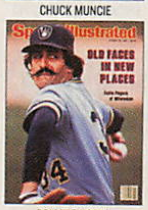
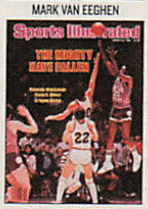

ROLLIE FINGERS


ROLANDO BLACKMAN

RALPH SAMPSON

ISIAH THOMAS

MIKE SCHMIDT & GEORGE BRETT

TOM WATSON

A'S PITCHERS

SONY

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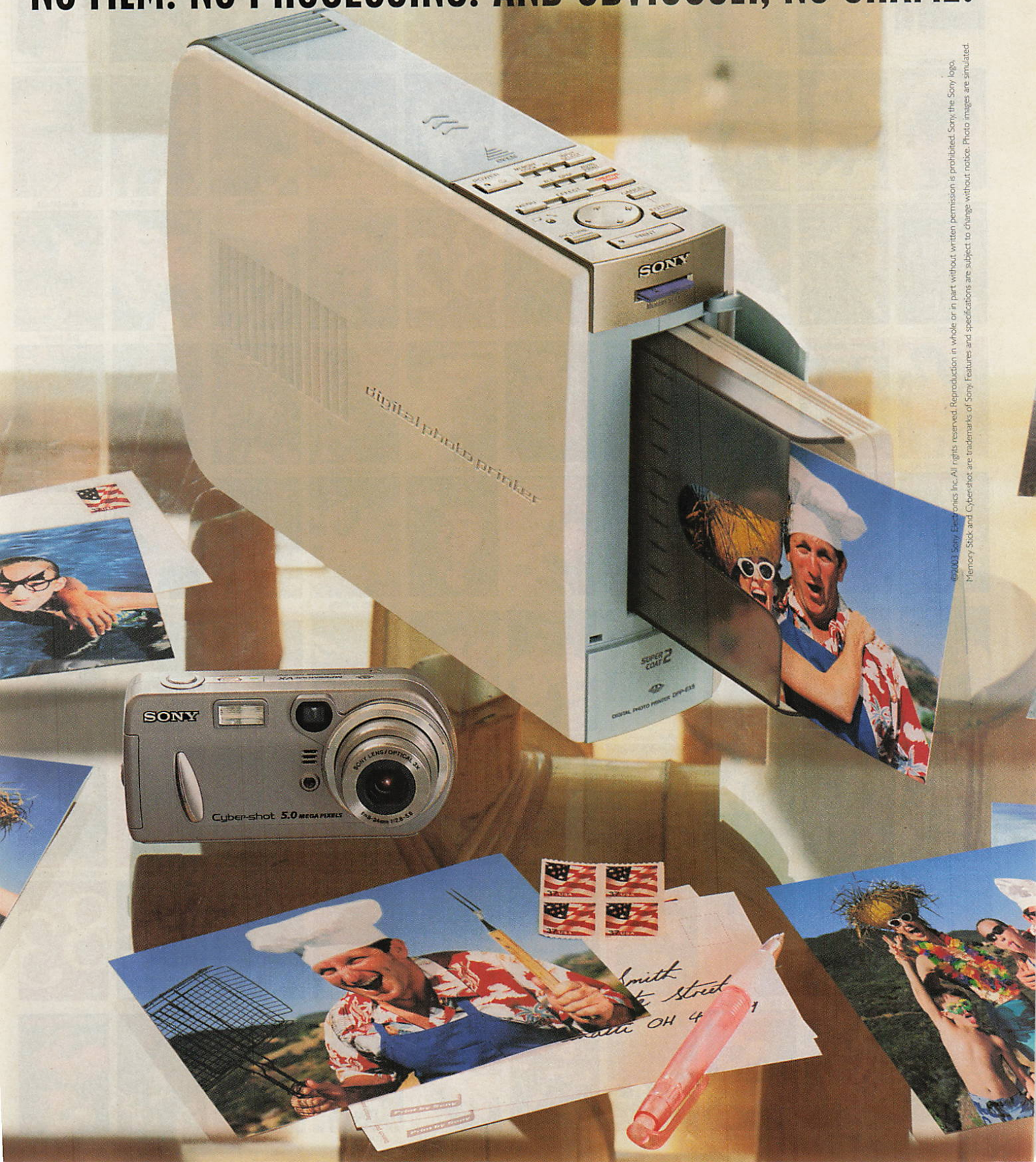

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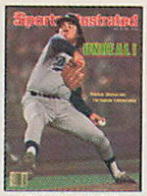
GERRY COONEY

CELTICS VS. 76ERS

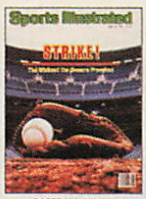

FERNANDO VALENZUELA

A.J. FOYT

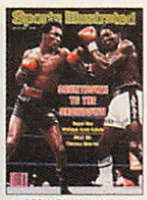
MARVIS & JOE FRAZIER

GREG LUZINSKI

BJORN BORG


BASEBALL STRIKE

DAVID GRAHAM


LEONARD VS. KALULE

JOHN McENROE

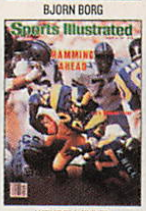
VINCE FERRAGAMO

TOM SEAVER

JOHN HANNAH

SCHMIDT & BRETT

DICK WILLIAMS & GARY CARTER

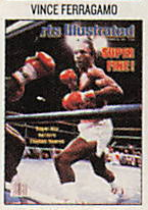

WENDELL TYLER

HERSCHEL WALKER

JIM PLUNKETT

THOMAS HEARNS

JOHN McENROE

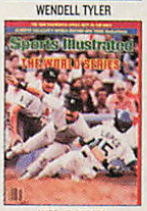

LEONARD VS. HEARNS

MARCUS ALLEN

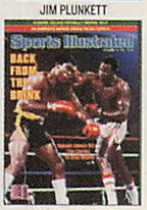
WAYNE GRETZKY

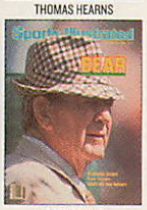
TEXAS VS. OKLAHOMA

GRAIG NETTLES


WORLD SERIES

LARRY BIRD


HOLMES VS. SNIPES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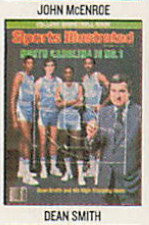
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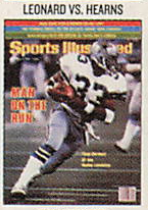
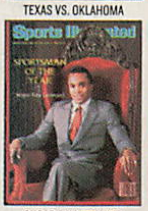
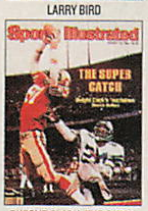

TONY DORSETT

CRIS COLLINSWORTH

49ER EARL COOPER


SUGAR RAY LEONARD

CLEMSON'S PERRY TUTTLE


DWIGHT CLARK: THE CATCH

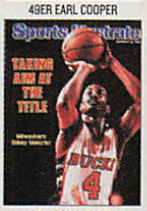
JOE MONTANA

EARL COOPER

SWIMSUIT: CAROL ALT

YEAR IN REVIEW

WAYNE GRETZKY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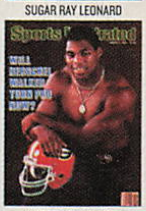
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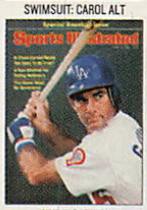
BANZAI PIPELINE

REGGIE JACKSON

PATRICK EWING

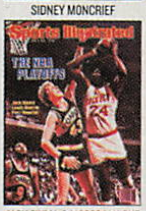
SAM PERKINS

NCAA FINALS

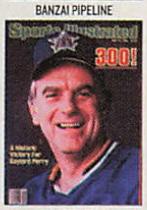

STEVE GARVEY

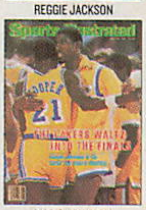
CRAIG STADLER

RENALDO NEHEMIAH

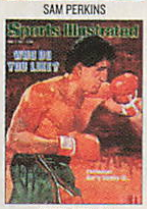

JACK SIKMA & MOSES MALONE

GEORGIA FRONTIERE

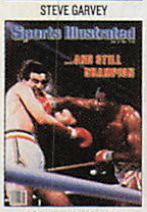

GAYLORD PERRY


MAGIC JOHNSON

JULIUS ERVING


GERRY COONEY

COCAINE IN THE NFL


COONEY VS. HOLMES

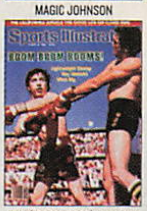
TOM WATSON

KENT HRBEK

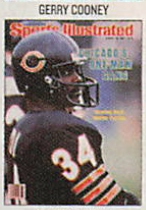
JIMMY CONNORS

ROSE & YASTRZEMSKI

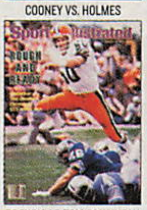
MARY DECKER


RAY (BOOM BOOM) MANCINI

DALE MURPHY


WALTER PAYTON

FRANCO HARRIS

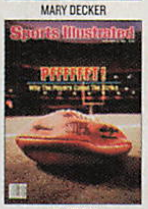

BROWNS LB TOM COUSINEAU

FOOTBALL PREVIEW

RICKEY HENDERSON

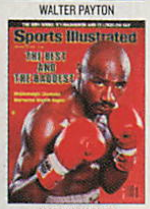
FLORIDA'S WAYNE PEACE

JIMMY CONNORS

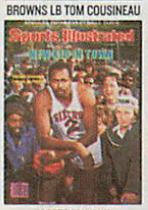

NFL STRIKE

TODD BLACKLEDGE

ROBIN YOUNT


MARVIN HAGLER

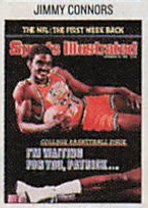
CARDINALS VS. BREWERS

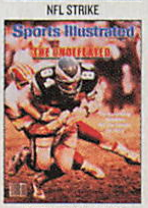

MOSES MALONE

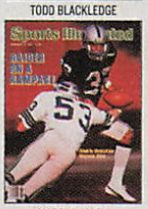
JOHN ELWAY

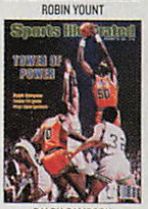
SUGAR RAY LEONARD

DEATH IN THE RING

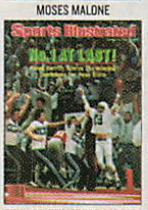

RALPH SAMPSON

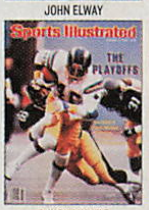

REDSKINS VS. EAGLES

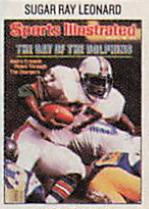

MARCUS ALLEN


RALPH SAMPSON

WAYNE GRETZKY


PENN STATE'S GREGG GARRITY


CHUCK MUNCIE


ANDRA FRANKLIN

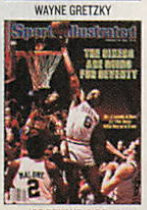
DARRYL GRANT

JOHN RIGGINS

SWIMSUIT: CHERYL TIEGS

YEAR IN REVIEW

TERRY CUMMINGS


JOE BRYANT & DR. J

HERSCHEL WALKER

PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES

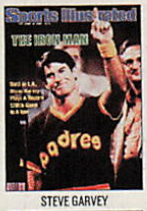
ST. JOHN'S BILLY GOODWIN

SPINKS VS. BRAXTON

GARY CARTER

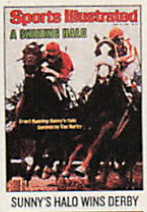
N.C. STATE WINS NCAA FINAL

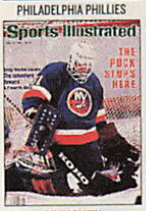
TOM SEAVER


STEVE GARVEY

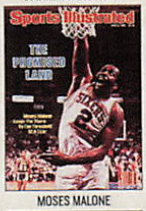
LARRY BIRD

KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR


SUNNY'S HALO WINS DERBY


BILLY SMITH

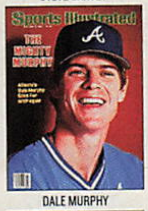
LARRY HOLMES


MOSES MALONE

ROD CAREW

MARCUS DUPREE

DURAN VS. MOORE


DALE MURPHY

JOHN McENROE

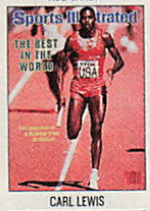
ANDRE DAWSON & DAVE STIEB

TOM WATSON

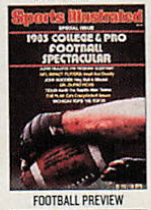
RICHARD TODD

HOWARD COSELL

JOHN ELWAY


CARL LEWIS

TONY DORSETT


FOOTBALL PREVIEW

MIKE ROZIER

EDWIN MOSES

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA

DOUG FLUTIE

STEVE CARLTON

JOE WASHINGTON

ERIC DICKERSON

RICK DEMPSEY

RALPH SAMPSON

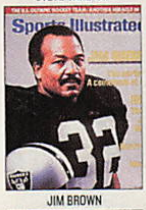
HAGLER VS. DURAN PREVIEW

DAN MARINO

HAGLER VS. DURAN

MJ & SAM PERKINS

SAM BOWIE

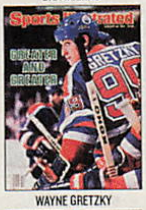

JIM BROWN

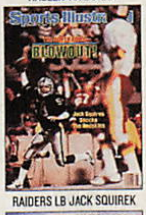
JOHN RIGGINS

MARY DECKER

MIAMI'S KEITH GRIFFIN

JOE THEISMANN


WAYNE GRETZKY


RAIDERS LB JACK SQUIREK

WINTER OLYMPICS PREVIEW

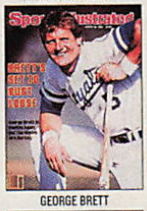
YEAR IN REVIEW

SWIMSUIT: PAULINA PORIZKOVA

SKIER DEBBIE ARMSTRONG

BILL JOHNSON

MAGIC JOHNSON


GEORGE BRETT

PATRICK EWING

SAM PERKINS

YOGI BERRA

HOYAS WIN NCAA FINAL

EX-YANKS IN SAN DIEGO

DARRYL STRAWBERRY

TOUGH COACH BOB (BULL) SULLIVAN

BERNARD KING

MIKE BOSSY

SOVIET OLYMPICS BOYCOTT

ALAN TRAMMELL

MAGIC JOHNSON

LEON DURHAM

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA

CARL LEWIS

DWIGHT STONES

OLYMPIAN JEFF FLOAT

JOHN McENROE

SUMMER OLYMPICS PREVIEW

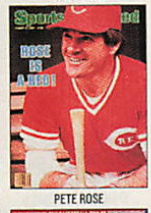
MICHAEL JORDAN

JACK LAMBERT

RAFER JOHNSON

MARY LOU RETTON

CARL LEWIS


PETE ROSE

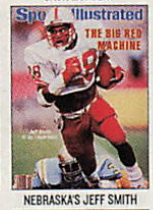
JOE THEISMANN

BERNIE KOSAR & DAN MARINO

DOLPHINS VS. REDSKINS

JOHN McENROE

SUTCLIFFE & GOODEN


NEBRASKA'S JEFF SMITH

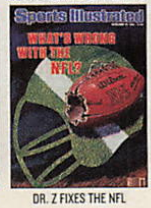
DENVER'S SAMMY WINDER

WALTER PAYTON

ALAN TRAMMELL

BILL RUSSELL & LARRY BIRD

NOTRE DAME'S GERRY FAUST

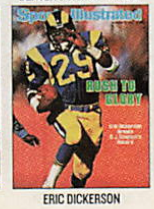

DR. Z FIXES THE NFL

MARK DUPER

HOYAS WITH REAGAN

DOUG FLUTIE

MICHAEL JORDAN

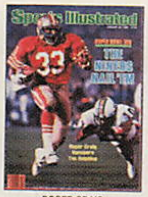

ERIC DICKERSON

RETTON & MOSES

WALTER ABERCROMBIE

DAN MARINO

MARINO & MONTANA



ROGER CRAIG

WALTER BERRY

SWIMSUIT: PAULINA PORIZKOVA

WAYNE GRETZKY

DOUG FLUTIE

MIKE SCHMIDT

GARY NICKLAUS

FRED LYNN

PETER UEBERROTH

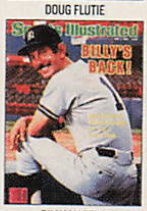
FINAL FOUR PREVIEW

ED PINCKNEY

DWIGHT GOODEN

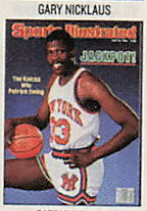
HAGLER VS. HEARNS

HULK HOGAN



BILLY MARTIN

MAGIC JOHNSON

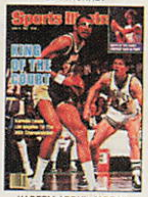


PATRICK EWING

HERSCHEL WALKER

INDY 500

KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR



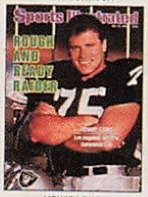
KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR

ANDY NORTH

LARRY HOLMES

FERNANDO VALENZUELA

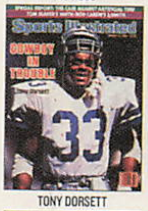
BORIS BECKER



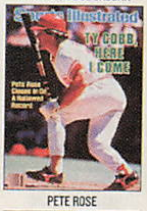
HOWIE LONG

MARY DECKER SLANEY

PEDRO GUERRERO

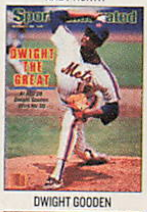


TONY DORSETT



PETE ROSE

BERNIE KOSAR



DWIGHT GOODEN

FOOTBALL PREVIEW

BILL ELLIOTT

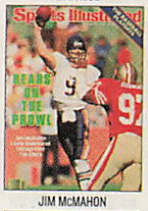
JOE LOUIS

OZZIE SMITH

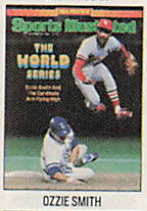
HOLMES VS. SPINKS

TENNESSEE'S TONY ROBINSON

EDDIE ROBINSON

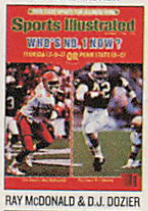


JIM McMAHON



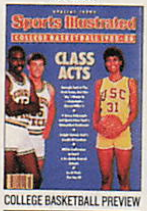
OZZIE SMITH

ROYALS WIN SERIES



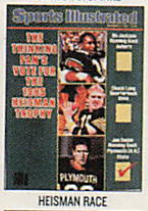
RAY McDONALD & D.J. DOZIER

DALE BROWN



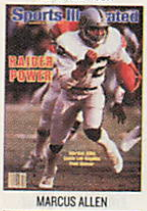
COLLEGE BASKETBALL PREVIEW

DANNY WHITE



HEISMAN RACE

KIRK GIBSON



MARCUS ALLEN

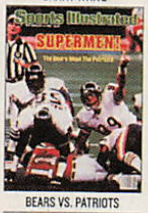
KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR

MIKE TYSON

CRAIG JAMES

JIM McMAHON

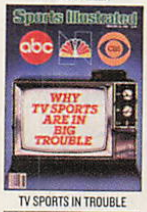
MIKE SINGLETARY



BEARS VS. PATRIOTS

SWIMSUIT: ELLE MACPHERSON

DANNY MANNING

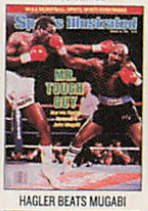


TV SPORTS IN TROUBLE

LARRY BIRD

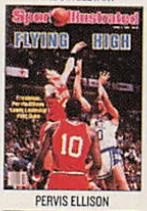
SPORTS GAMBLING

MARK ALARIE

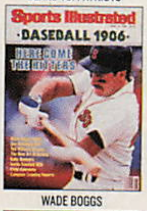


HAGLER BEATS MUGABI

FINAL FOUR



PERVIS ELLISON

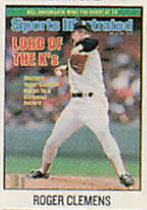


WADE BOGGS

JACK NICKLAUS

DOMINIQUE WILKINS

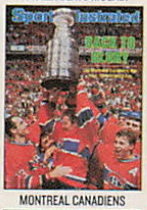
ERNEST HEMINGWAY



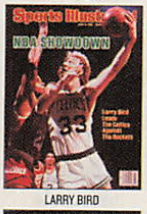
ROGER CLEMENS

JAMES WORTHY

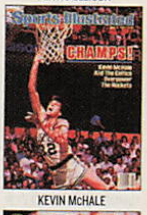
AKEEM OLAJUWON



MONTREAL CANADIENS



LARRY BIRD



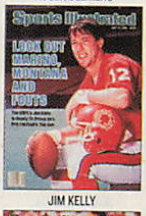
KEVIN McHALE

RAYMOND & CHRISTINA FLOYD

LEN BIAS

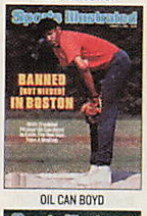
DIEGO MARADONA

BO JACKSON



JIM KELLY

RICKEY HENDERSON



OIL CAN BOYD

WILLIAM PERRY & ED JONES

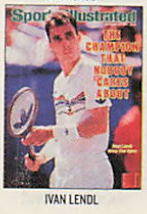
HERSCHEL WALKER

RON DARLING

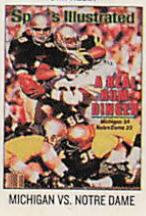
KRISTIE PHILLIPS

BOSWORTH & McMAHON

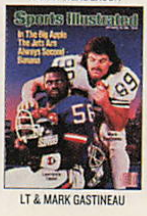
SUGAR RAY LEONARD



IVAN LENDL



MICHIGAN VS. NOTRE DAME

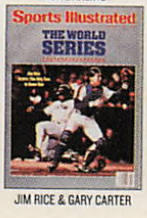


LT & MARK GASTINEAU

DARRYL STRAWBERRY

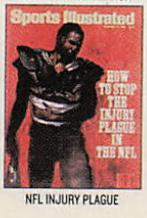
JOHN ELWAY

DOUG DeCINCES & BOBBY GRICH



JIM RICE & GARY CARTER

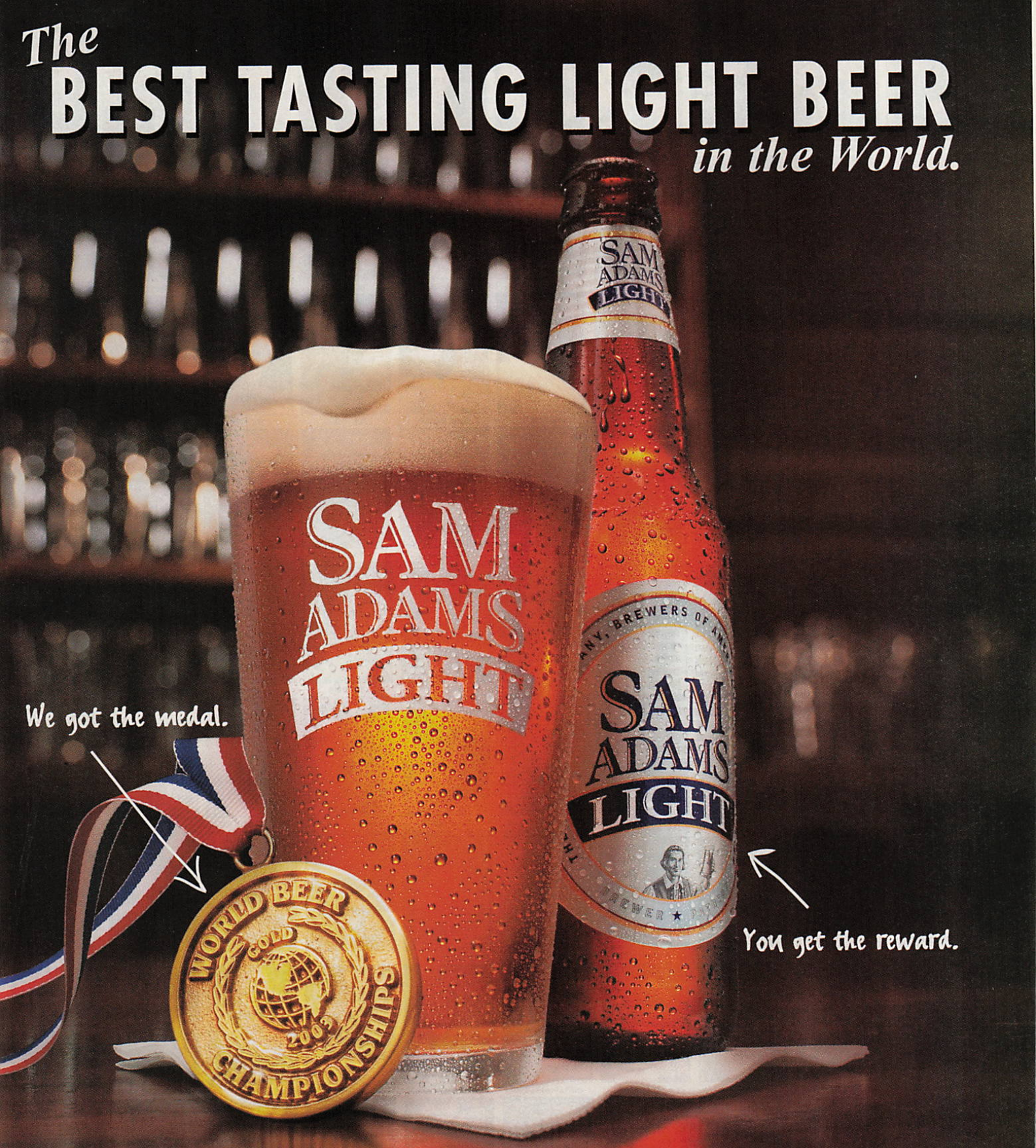
RAY KNIGHT



NFL INJURY PLAGUE

MICHAEL JORDAN

The BEST TASTING LIGHT BEER *in the World.*



It's great to win and even better when you can drink the prize. In 2003, the judges from the World Beer Championships conducted a special taste test of the leading domestic and imported light beers. In 10 years of judging, Sam Adams Light is the only light beer to be awarded a gold medal. The World Beer Championships, founded in 1994, is an independent body whose mission is to produce fair and impartial judging and reviews of beer for consumers. The World Beer Championships, conducted by the Beverage Testing Institute, have tested beer from over 50 countries.

SAM ADAMS LIGHT. THE BEST TASTING LIGHT BEER IN THE WORLD.

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Savor the flavor responsibly.®*

DAVID ROBINSON

VINNY TESTAVERDE

TYSON VS. BERBICK

WALTER PAYTON

MARK BAVARO

JOE PATERNO

BRIAN BOSWORTH

OZZIE NEWSOME

RICH KARLIS

LAWRENCE TAYLOR

PHIL SIMMS

SWIMSUIT: ELLE MACPHERSON

CONNER & REAGAN

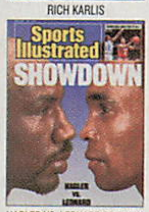
MAGIC JOHNSON

J.R. REID

THREE RIPKENS

GARY McLAIN

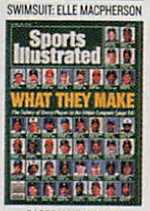
BOBBY KNIGHT



HAGLER VS. LEONARD PREVIEW

CORY SNYDER & JOE CARTER

HAGLER VS. LEONARD

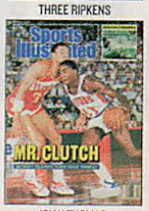


BASEBALL SALARIES

ROB DEER

JULIUS ERVING

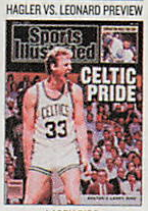
REGGIE JACKSON



ISIAH THOMAS

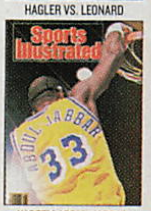
ERIC DAVIS

WAYNE GRETZKY



LARRY BIRD

CELTICS VS. LAKERS



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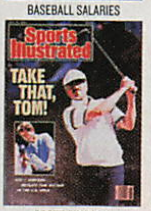
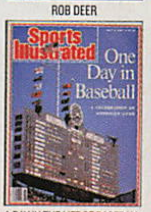


SCOTT SIMPSON



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF BASEBALL

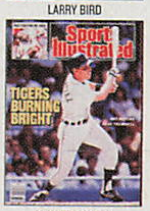
STRAWBERRY & MATTINGLY

ANDRE DAWSON

PIT BULLS

VINNY TESTAVERDE

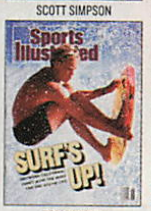
TYSON VS. TUCKER



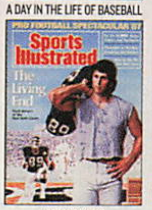
ALAN TRAMMELL

JIM McMAHON

TIM BROWN



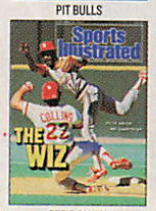
TOM TRAGER



MARK BAVARO

JACKIE JOYNER-KERSEE

JOHN ELWAY

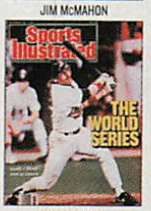


OZZIE SMITH

LLOYD MOSEBY

STEVE WALSH

MINNESOTA'S PENNANT

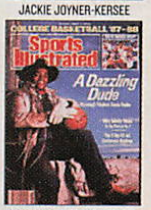


DAN GLADDEN

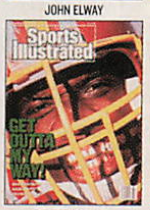
TWINS WIN WORLD SERIES

ERIC DICKERSON

OKLAHOMA'S ROTNEI ANDERSON



WYOMING'S FENNIS DEMBO

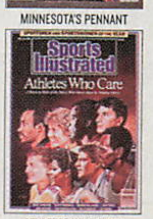


DEXTER MANLEY

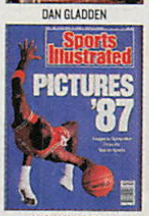
OKLAHOMA VS. NEBRASKA

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

BO JACKSON



ATHLETES WHO CARE

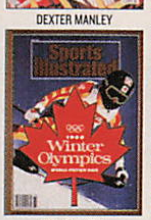


MICHAEL JORDAN

MIAMI'S DENNIS KELLEHER

ANTHONY CARTER

JOHN ELWAY



KELLIE CASEY

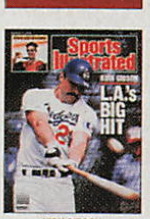
MIKE TYSON

DOUG WILLIAMS

SWIMSUIT: ELLE MACPHERSON

CHAMBERLAIN & RUSSELL

BRIAN BOITANO



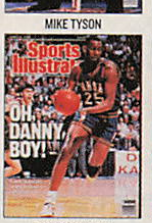
KIRK GIBSON

PAM POSTEMA

LARRY BIRD

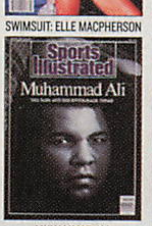
TEMPLE'S MARK MACON

WILL CLARK & MARK McGWIRE



DANNY MANNING

L.A. LAKERS



MUHAMMAD ALI

BILLY RIPKEN

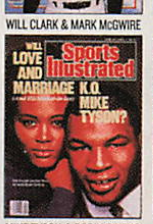
PETE ROSE

MICHAEL JORDAN

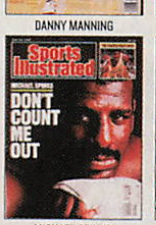
KARL MALONE & MAGIC

WAYNE GRETZKY

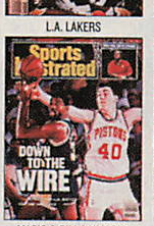
FIRED COACHES



MIKE TYSON & ROBIN GIVENS

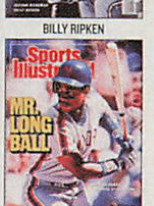


MICHAEL SPINKS

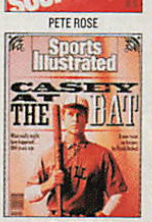


MAGIC & BILL LAIMBEER

TYSON VS. SPINKS



DARRYL STRAWBERRY



CASEY AT THE BAT

FLORENCE GRIFFITH JOYNER

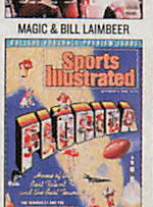
TONY DORSETT

BEER

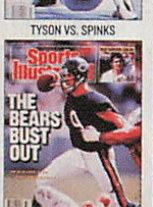
SPORTS IN CHINA

GRETZKY & MAGIC

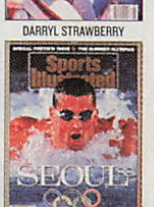
BERNIE KOSAR



COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW



JIM McMAHON



MATT BIONDI

STEFFI GRAF

DWIGHT EVANS

BEN JOHNSON

U.S. SPRINTERS

JOSE CANSECO

TONY RICE

OREL HERSHISER

KARL MALONE

TOM LANDRY & CHUCK NOLL

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS

RODNEY PEETE

BILLY OWENS

TONY RICE

CHARLES BARKLEY

OREL HERSHISER

FLORENCE GRIFFITH JOYNER

TONY RICE

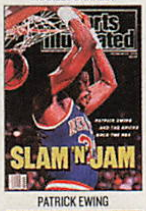
ICKEY WOODS

KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR

JERRY RICE

MARIO LEMIEUX

SWIMSUIT: KATHY IRELAND



PATRICK EWING

CHRIS JACKSON

LAWLESSNESS IN SPORTS

WADE BOGGS

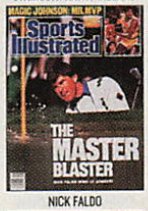
MICHAEL JORDAN

JIMMY JOHNSON

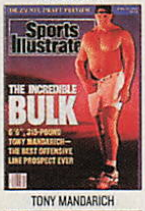
STEFFI GRAF

PETE ROSE

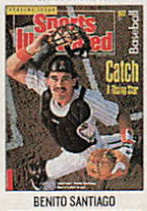
RUMEAL ROBINSON & GLEN RICE



NICK FALDO



TONY MANDARICH



BENITO SANTIAGO

NOLAN RYAN

JON PETERS (51–0)

MICHAEL JORDAN

JULIE KRONE

KENTUCKY SCANDAL

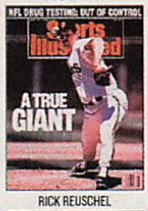
JAMES WORTHY

BO JACKSON

LEONARD VS. HEARNS II

CURTIS STRANGE

THE CASE AGAINST PETE ROSE



RICK REUSCHEL

GEORGE FOREMAN

METS' GREGG JEFFRIES

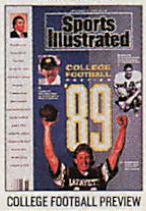
GREG LEMOND

BOOMER ESIASON

MICHAEL JORDAN

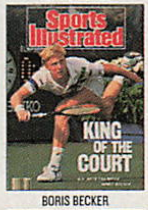
TROY AIKMAN

CHRIS EVERT

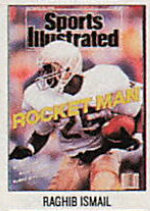


COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW

RANDALL CUNNINGHAM



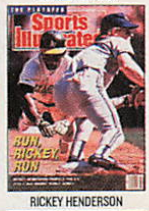
BORIS BECKER



RAGHIB ISMAIL

JOE MONTANA

RUSSIANS IN THE NHL



RICKEY HENDERSON

HERSCHEL WALKER

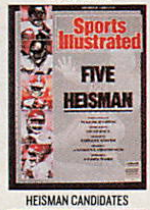
EARTHQUAKE AT THE SERIES

JOE DUMARS & MJ

DEION SANDERS

MUHAMMAD ALI

RUMEAL ROBINSON



HEISMAN CANDIDATES

MIAMI'S STEVE McGUIRE

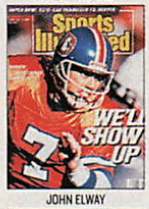
LARRY BIRD

MONTANA, MAGIC & GRETZKY

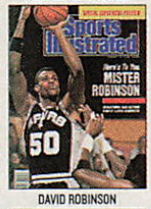
GREG LEMOND

MIAMI'S CRAIG ERICKSON

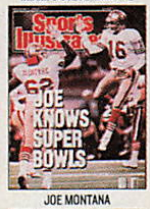
JERRY RICE



JOHN ELWAY



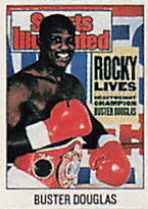
DAVID ROBINSON



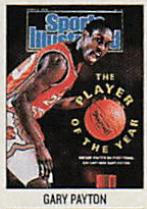
JOE MONTANA

SWIMSUIT: JUDIT MASCO

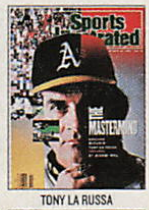
TYSON VS. DOUGLAS



BUSTER DOUGLAS



GARY PAYTON

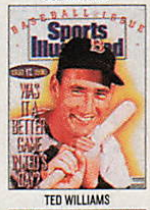

TONY LA RUSSA

JENNIFER CAPRIATI

BO KIMBLE

UNLV'S STACEY AUGMON

UNLV WINS NCAA FINAL



TED WILLIAMS

TOMAS SANDSTROM

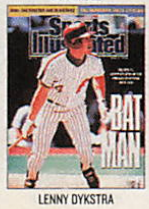
JEFF GEORGE

KEN GRIFFEY JR.

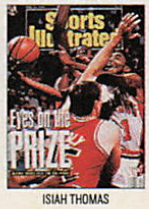
STEALING SNEAKERS

MICHAEL JORDAN

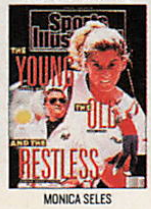
WILL CLARK



LENNY DYKSTRA



ISIAH THOMAS



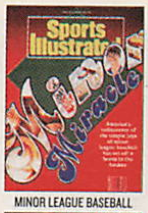
MONICA SELES

HALE IRWIN

MARVIN HAGLER

DARRYL STRAWBERRY

MARTINA NAVRATILOVA



MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

GREG LeMOND

JOE MONTANA

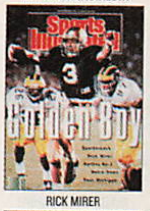
AUTOGRAPH HOUNDS

JOSE CANSECO

TROY AIKMAN

BARRY SANDERS

PETE SAMPRAS

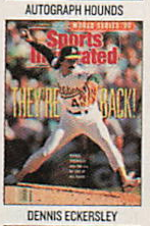


RICK MIRER

BOBBY BONILLA

O.J. SIMPSON

SAN DIEGO'S BURT GROSSMAN



DENNIS ECKERSLEY

CHRIS SABO

BILL LAIMBEER

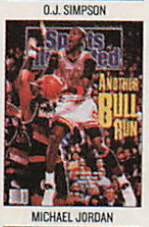
GEORGIA TECH'S WILLIAM BELL

UNLV'S AUGMON & JOHNSON

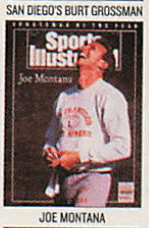
PENN STATE VS. NOTRE DAME

MAGIC JOHNSON

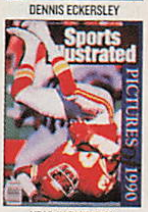
TY DETMER



MICHAEL JORDAN



JOE MONTANA



YEAR IN PICTURES

DAN MARINO

SHAQUILLE O'NEAL

OTTIS ANDERSON

EVERSON WALLS

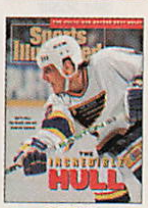
SWIMSUIT: ASHLEY MONTANA

THE DREAM TEAM

ROCKET ISMAIL

DARRYL STRAWBERRY

ROBERT PARISH



BRETT HULL

TYSON VS. RUDDOCK

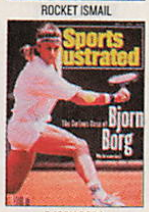
KANSAS'S MARK RANDALL

GRANT HILL

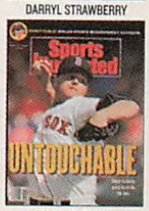
NOLAN RYAN

IAN WOOSNAM

HOLYFIELD VS. FOREMAN



BJORN BORG



ROGER CLEMENS

MICHAEL JOHNSON

MANTLE & MARIS

MICHAEL JORDAN

MJ & MAGIC

MICHAEL JORDAN

MIKE TYSON

OREL HERSHISER

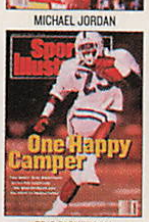
LYLE ALZADO

STEFFI GRAF

FUTURE OF TV SPORTS

CAL RIPKEN JR.

THE BLACK ATHLETE



ERIC DICKERSON

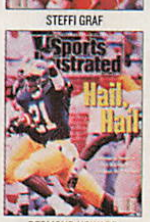
JOHN DALY

HOUSTON'S DAVE KLINGLER

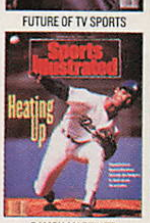
BRUCE SMITH

MIKE POWELL

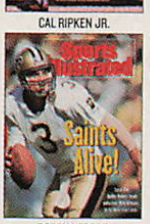
JIMMY CONNORS



DESMOND HOWARD

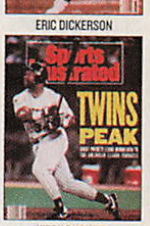


RAMON MARTINEZ



BOBBY HEBERT

GARY CLARK



KIRBY PUCKETT

DAN GLADDEN

TWINS WIN WORLD SERIES

NBA PREVIEW

MAGIC'S HIV

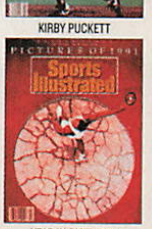
CHRISTIAN LAETTNER

JIM McMAHON

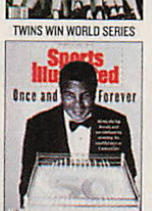
DESMOND HOWARD

RAIDERS QB JAY SCHROEDER

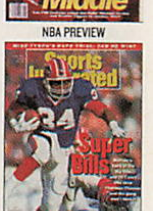
MICHAEL JORDAN



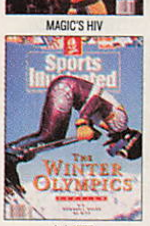
YEAR IN PICTURES



MUHAMMAD ALI



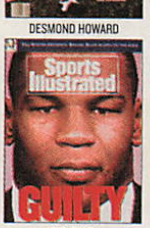
THURMAN THOMAS



A.J. KITT

MARK RYPIEN

PATRICK EWING



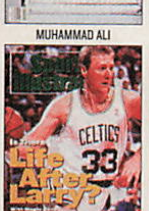
MIKE TYSON

BONNIE BLAIR

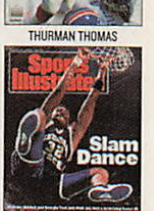
KRISTI YAMAGUCHI

SWIMSUIT: KATHY IRELAND

RYNE SANDBERG



LARRY BIRD



MARCH MADNESS

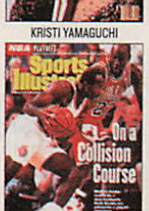
KIRBY PUCKETT

BOBBY HURLEY

FRED COUPLES

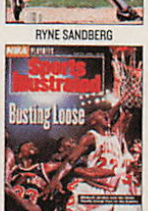
DEION SANDERS

BARRY BONDS



DREXLER & JORDAN

ERRORS EPIDEMIC IN BASEBALL

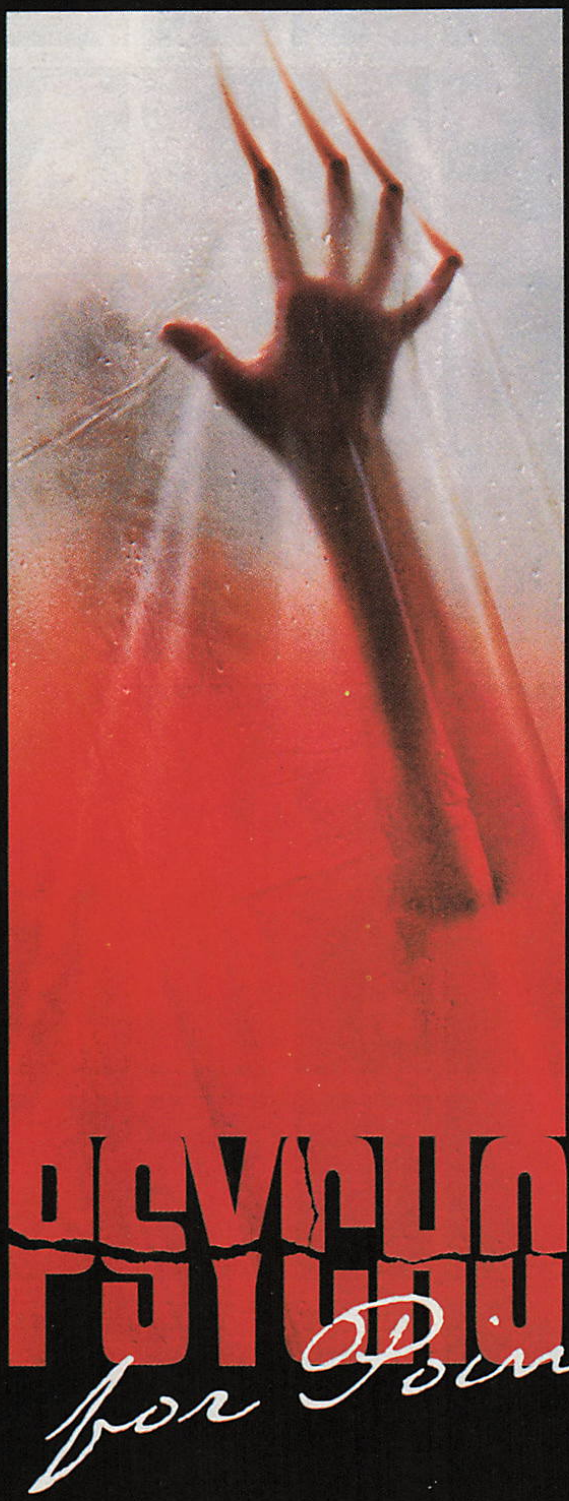


MICHAEL JORDAN

MARK McGWIRE

MARIO LEMIEUX

IT'S SO GOOD IT'S SCARY



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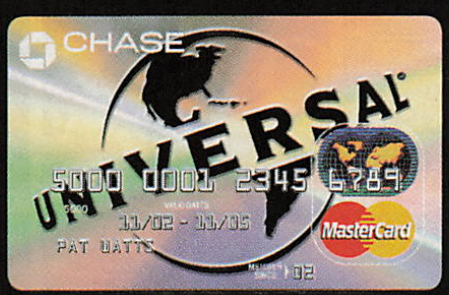

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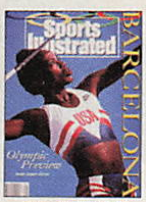
HORACE GRANT & JORDAN

MICHAEL JORDAN

TOM KITE

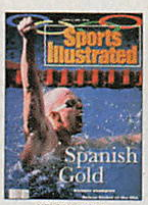
STEVE PALERMO

ANDRE AGASSI



JACKIE JOYNER-KERSEE

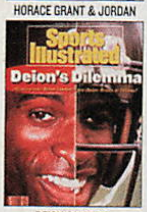
JOE MONTANA



NELSON DIEBEL

GAIL DEVERS

CARL LEWIS

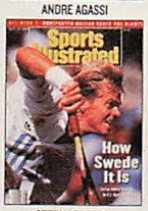


DEION SANDERS

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW

JERRY RICE

JIM HARBAUGH



STEFAN EDBERG

TONY MANDARICH

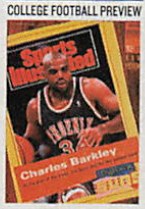
GEORGE BRETT

RANDALL CUNNINGHAM

WALT WEISS & DAVE WINFIELD

BRAVES VS. BLUE JAYS

TORONTO WINS WORLD SERIES



CHARLES BARKLEY

KEN NORTON JR.

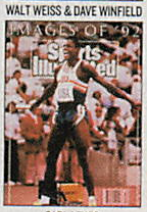
HOLYFIELD VS. BOWE

SHAQUILLE O'NEAL

NFL INJURIES

BIRD & MAGIC

ARTHUR ASHE



CARL LEWIS

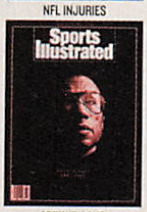
JIM VALVANO

STEVE YOUNG

EMMITT SMITH

SUPER BOWL PREVIEW

TROY AIKMAN


ARTHUR ASHE

SWIMSUIT: VENDELA

GEORGE STEINBRENNER

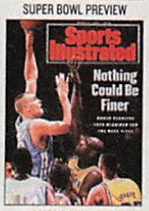
UNC VS. FLORIDA STATE

REGGIE WHITE

DWIGHT GOODEN

JASON KIDD & BOBBY HURLEY

DAVID CONE



UNC VS. MICHIGAN

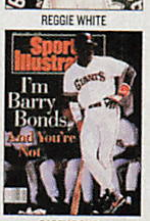
MARIO LEMIEUX

JOE MONTANA

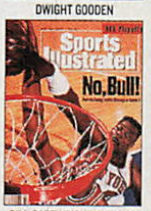
JOE DIMAGGIO

MONICA SELES

HAKEEM OLAJUWON

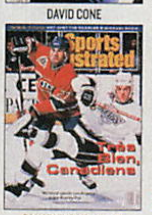


BARRY BONDS



BILL CARTWRIGHT & EWING

MICHAEL JORDAN


CANADIENS VS. KINGS

JORDAN & BARKLEY

JORDAN'S 3RD NBA TITLE

MIKE PIAZZA

SPRING TRAINING DEATHS

BOB GIBSON & DENNY McLAIN

GREG NORMAN

JOHN ELWAY & DAN REEVES

REGGIE LEWIS

NIKE'S PHIL KNIGHT

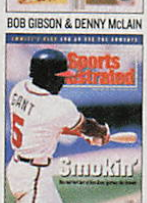
MARY PIERCE

FSU'S SCOTT BENTLEY

JUNIOR SEAU

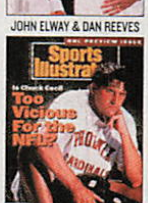
JOE MONTANA

WHITAKER VS. CHAVEZ

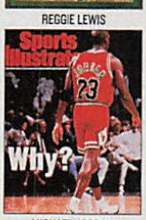


RON GANT

BOOMER & GUNNAR ESIASON



CHUCK CECIL



MICHAEL JORDAN

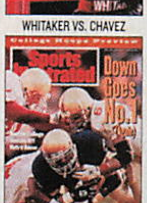
MICHAEL IRVIN

JOE CARTER

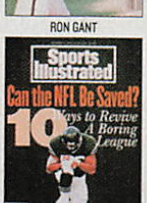
MOURNING & RUSSELL

BOWE-HOLYFIELD II

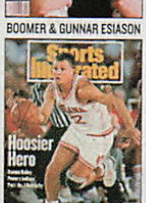
NOTRE DAME'S JIM FLANIGAN



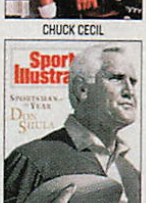
BC VS. NOTRE DAME



NFL WOES



DAMON BAILEY


DON SHULA

YEAR IN REVIEW

FLORIDA STATE FOOTBALL

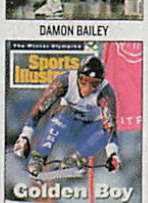
NANCY KERRIGAN

JOE MONTANA

EMMITT SMITH

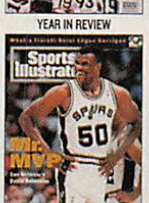
EMMITT SMITH

IRELAND, MACPHERSON, HUNTER



TOMMY MOE

DAN JANSEN & BONNIE BLAIR



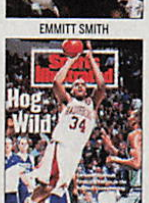
DAVID ROBINSON

MICHAEL JORDAN

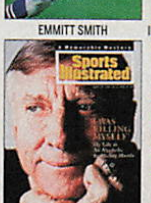
BILL CLINTON

BC'S BILL CURLEY

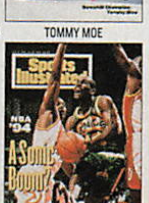
KEN GRIFFEY JR.



CORLISS WILLIAMSON


MICKEY MANTLE

DAN WILKINSON



GARY PAYTON

TENNIS IN TROUBLE

reachout

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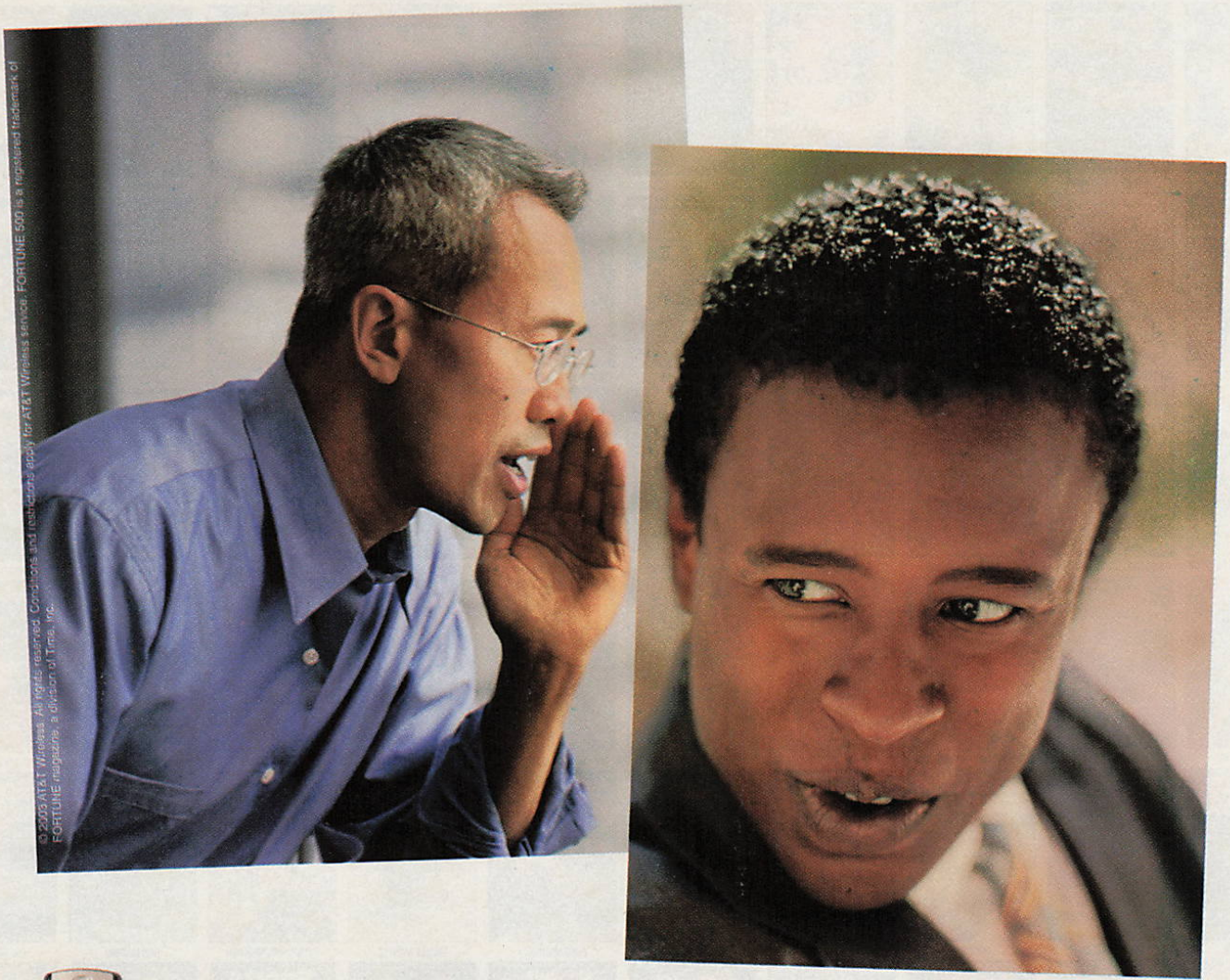

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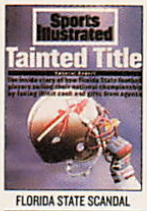
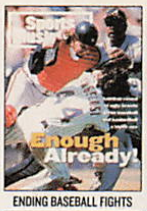


FLORIDA STATE SCANDAL



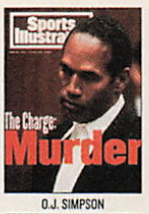
ENDING BASEBALL FIGHTS

JOHN STARKS

KEN GRIFFEY JR.

MARK MESSIER

MIKE RICHTER & PATRICK EWING †



O.J. SIMPSON

ERNIE STEWART †

PETE SAMPRAS

ORIOLES PITCHERS

BRAZIL'S WORLD CUP TEAM

BARRY SWITZER'S COWBOYS

FRANK THOMAS & KEN GRIFFEY JR.

SI'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

BASEBALL PREVIEW

ARIZONA FOOTBALL

COLTS' WILL WOLFORD

DAN MARINO

SI'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY

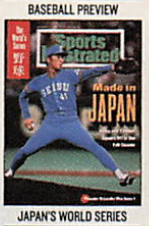
STEVE MCNAIR

MICHAEL WESTBROOK

PERNELL WHITAKER

NATRONE MEANS

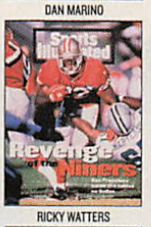
PENN STATE'S FREDDIE SCOTT



JAPAN'S WORLD SERIES

HORACE GRANT

GEORGE FOREMAN



RICKY WATTERS

ST. JOHN'S FELIPE LOPEZ

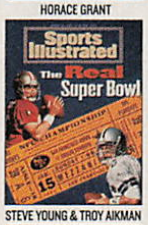
PITTSBURGH STEELERS

DALLAS COWBOYS

BONNIE BLAIR & JOHANN KOSS

JERRY RICE

TOM OSBORNE

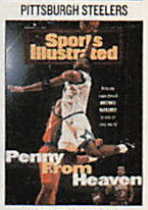


STEVE YOUNG & TROY AIKMAN

STEVE YOUNG

DERRICK COLEMAN

STEVE YOUNG



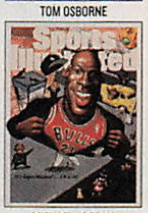
ANFERNEE HARDAWAY

SWIMSUIT: DANIELA PESTOVA

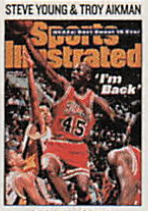
STRAWBERRY & GOODEN

JERRY STACKHOUSE

ANDRE AGASSI



MICHAEL JORDAN

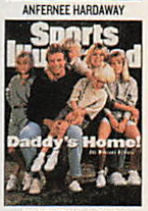


MICHAEL JORDAN

ARKANSAS'S COREY BECK

UCLA'S ED O'BANNON †

BEN CRENSHAW



JOE MONTANA & FAMILY

CAL RIPKEN JR.

VLADE DIVAC

COACHES BEHAVING BADLY

SHAQ AND MJ

DENNIS RODMAN

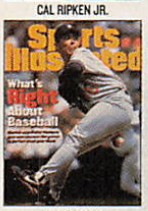
MATT WILLIAMS

MIAMI FOOTBALL

CLYDE DREXLER

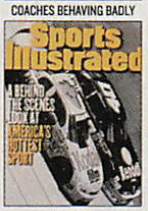
KEVIN GARNETT

MIKE TYSON

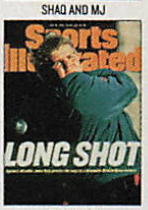


HIDEO NOMO

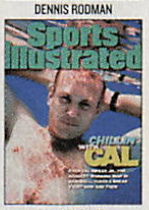
MONICA SELES



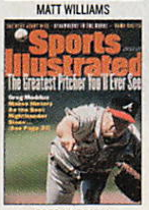
NASCAR



JOHN DALY

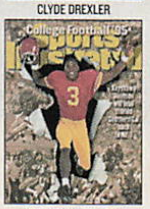


CAL RIPKEN JR.

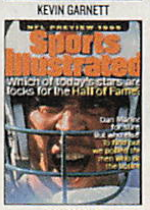


GREG MADDUX †

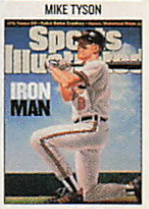
MICKEY MANTLE



KEYSHAWN JOHNSON



DAN MARINO



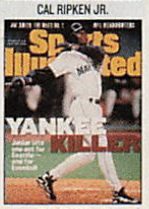
CAL RIPKEN JR.

EMMITT SMITH

DANNY WUERFFEL

MO VAUGHN

DEION SANDERS



KEN GRIFFEY JR.

RODMAN & JORDAN

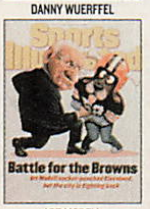
BO JACKSON

BRAVES WIN SERIES

DARNELL AUTRY

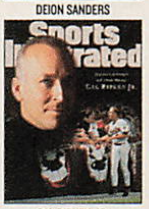
ELVIS GRBAC

JACQUE VAUGHN

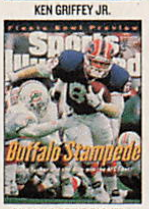


ART MODELL

PAT RILEY & DON SHULA



CAL RIPKEN JR.



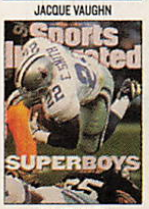
BILLS WR STEVE TASKER †

ATLANTA OLYMPICS †

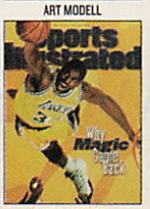
BRETT FAVRE

EMMITT SMITH

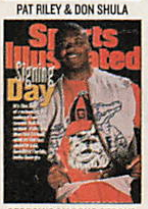
SWIMSUIT: MAZZA & BANKS



EMMITT SMITH



MAGIC JOHNSON



GEORGIA'S MARCUS STROUD

RICK PITINO

DENNIS RODMAN

NEIL O'DONNELL & GRETZKY

SEATTLE'S JAY BUHNER & SON

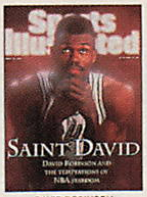
DARVIN HAM

MANNY RAMIREZ

ANTOINE WALKER

CHRISTY MARTIN

GREG NORMAN


DAVID ROBINSON

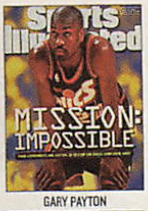
ALBERT BELLE

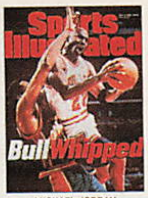
DAN MARINO & JIMMY JOHNSON

MARGE SCHOTT

MJ & PHIL JACKSON

MICHAEL JORDAN


GARY PAYTON


MICHAEL JORDAN

RICHIE PARKER

EMMITT SMITH

ALEX RODRIGUEZ

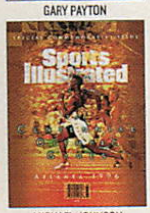
AGENT DREW ROSENHAUS

U.S. WOMEN'S HOOPS TEAM

TOM DOLAN

CARL LEWIS

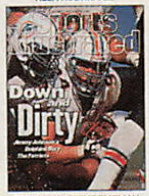
MICHAEL JOHNSON


MICHAEL JOHNSON

AL SIMMONS

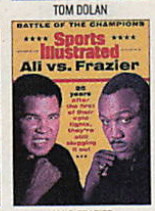
PEYTON MANNING

NFL PREVIEW


DOLPHINS' STEVE EMTMAN

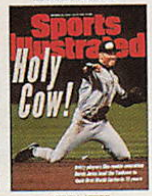
AHMAN GREEN

NOTRE DAME'S RON POWLUS


ALI & FRAZIER

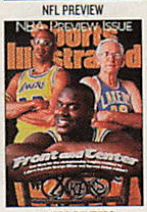
GRETZKY & MESSIER

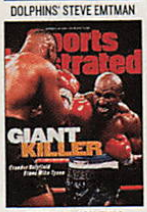
ROBERTO ALOMAR

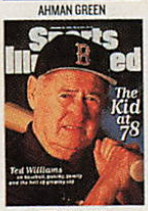

DEREK JETER

TIGER WOODS

YANKEES WIN SERIES


LAKERS CENTERS


TYSON VS. HOLYFIELD


TED WILLIAMS

DANNY FORTSON

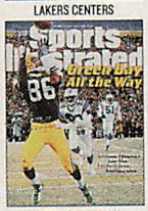
FSU'S WARRICK DUNN

BRETT FAVRE

TIGER WOODS

JOHN ELWAY

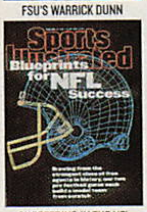
MARK BRUNELL & KERRY COLLINS

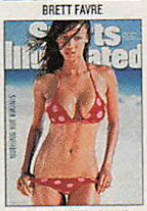

ANTONIO FREEMAN

BRETT FAVRE & MIKE HOLMGREN

DESMOND HOWARD

TERRELL BRANDON

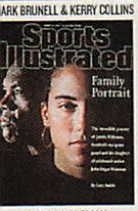

SUCCEEDING IN THE NFL


SWIMSUIT: TYRA BANKS

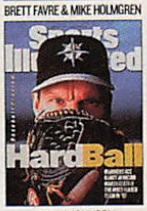
A-ROD & DEREK JETER

SUGAR RAY LEONARD

MICHAEL JORDAN VS. NBA


JAMILA WIDEMAN

SCOT POLLARD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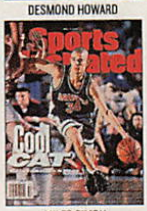
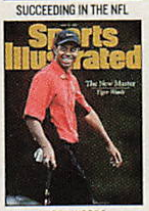
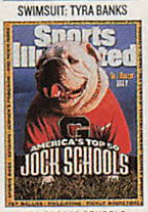

MILES SIMON

DRUGS IN SPORTS


TIGER WOODS

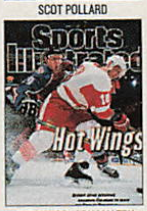

TOP SPORTS SCHOOLS

JACKIE ROBINSON

KARL MALONE

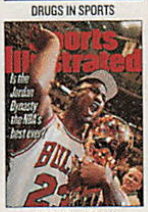
STEVE SMITH & MJ

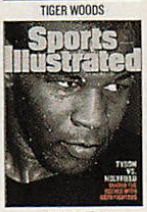
DEION SANDERS


RED WINGS' KIRK MALTBY

MICHAEL JORDAN

KARL MALONE


MICHAEL JORDAN

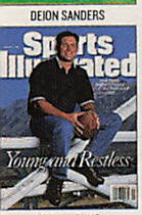

MIKE TYSON

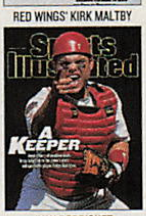
TYSON VS. HOLYFIELD II

PETE SAMPRAS

FRANK GIFFORD

TONY GWYNN


STEVE YOUNG

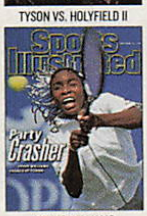

IVAN RODRIGUEZ

BOOGER SMITH

JOE JUREVICIUS

AFC CENTRAL QBs

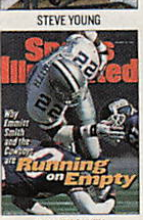
STEVE YOUNG


VENUS WILLIAMS

PEYTON MANNING

WARRICK DUNN

TIGER WOODS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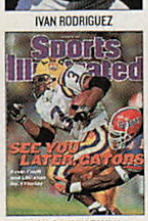
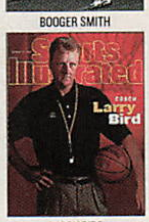
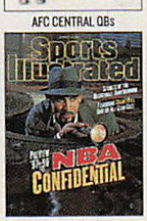
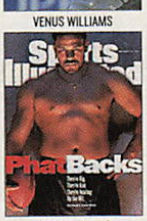

LSU'S KEVIN FAULK


LARRY BIRD

EDGAR RENTERIA


GRANT HILL

STEVE WOJCIECHOWSKI

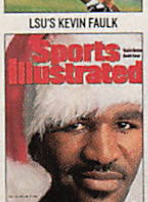

JEROME BETTIS

OSU'S DAVID BOSTON

THE WHITE ATHLETE

LATRELL SPREWELL

DEAN SMITH


EVANDER HOLYFIELD

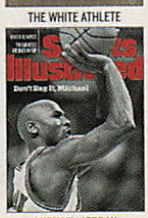
BRENT JONES

ANTONIO FREEMAN

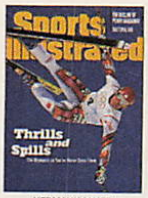
INTERNET GAMBLING

JOHN ELWAY

MICHELLE KWAN


MICHAEL JORDAN

SWIMSUIT: HEIDI KLUM



HERMANN MAIER

PAT SUMMITT

ALLEN IVERSON

RICKY MOORE †

MARK McGWIRE

NAZR MOHAMMED

KENTUCKY WINS NCAA FINAL †

TIGER WOODS

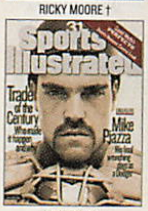
PEDRO MARTINEZ

MAGIC & KOBE

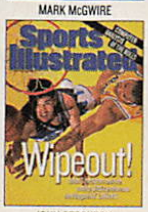
PATERNITY SUITS

CHICAGO BULLS

NEW YORK YANKEES



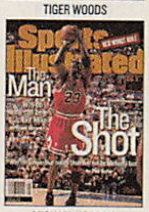
MIKE PIAZZA



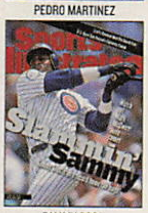
JOHN STOCKTON

MICHAEL JORDAN

MICHAEL JORDAN



MICHAEL JORDAN

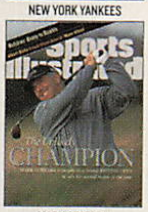


SAMMY SOSA

ALEX RODRIGUEZ

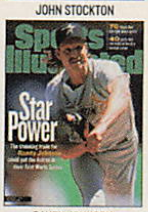
HOWARD BINGHAM & ALI

MIKE DITKA



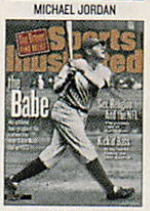
MARK O'MEARA

MARK McGWIRE

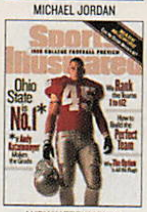


RANDY JOHNSON

BRETT FAVRE



BABE RUTH

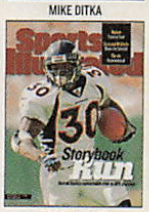


ANDY KATZENMOYER

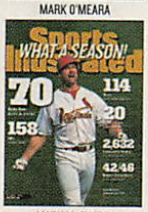
MATT & MARK McGWIRE

MARK McGWIRE

SAMMY SOSA



TERRELL DAVIS



MARK McGWIRE

SHANE SPENCER †

UMPS UNDER FIRE

49ERS' KEVIN GOGAN

YANKEES WIN SERIES

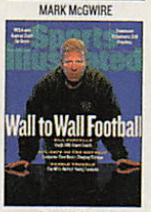
DOUG FLUTIE

RICKY WILLIAMS

STANFORD'S ARTHUR LE

JOHN ELWAY

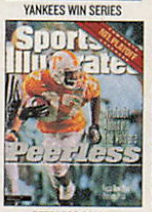
RANDALL CUNNINGHAM



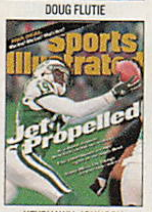
BILL PARCELLS

McGWIRE & SOSA

BEST SPORTS YEARS



PEERLESS PRICE



KEYSHAWN JOHNSON

MICHAEL JORDAN

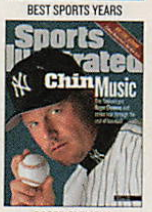
SHANNON SHARPE

JOHN ELWAY

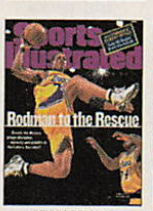
REBECCA ROMIJN-STAMOS

SCOTTIE PIPPEN

ELTON BRAND



ROGER CLEMENS



DENNIS RODMAN

MATEEN CLEAVES †

WALLY SZCZERBIAK

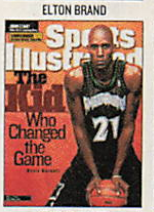
KEVIN BROWN

UCONN'S RICKY MOORE

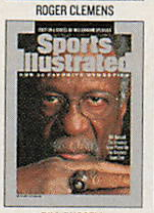
DAVID DUVAL

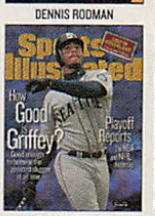
NFL DRAFT

WAYNE GRETZKY



KEVIN GARNETT


BILL RUSSELL



KEN GRIFFEY JR.

ICE CUBE & SHAQ

KOBE BRYANT & TIM DUNCAN

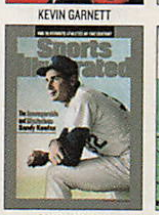
LATRELL SPREWELL

ANDRE AGASSI

DEREK JETER

SPURS VS. KNICKS

DAVID ROBINSON


SANDY KOUFAX

BRANDI CHASTAIN

CLAY VS. LISTON

BARRY SANDERS

LAVAR ARRINGTON

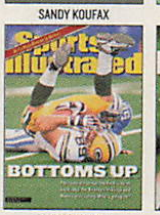
TIGER WOODS

RICKY WILLIAMS & JIM BROW

METS INFIELD

PEDOPHILE COACHES

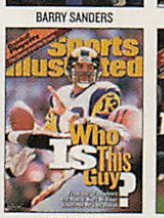
SERENA WILLIAMS



MARK CHMURA

JUSTIN LEONARD

TERRELL DAVIS



KURT WARNER

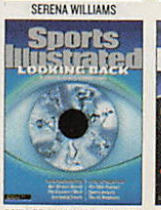
SCOTT BROSIUS

PHIL JACKSON

WALTER PAYTON

AUBURN'S CHRIS PORTER

PEYTON MANNING



20TH-CENTURY CELEBRATION

VIRGINIA TECH'S ANDRE DAVIS

DAN MARINO

U.S. WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM

50 BEST FROM EACH STATE †

FSU'S PETER WARRICK

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Coming Through!
SHAQUILLE O'NEAL
ISAAC BRUCE
JEVON KEARSE
KURT WARNER
MICHAEL JORDAN
How the Reds Got Junior
KEN GRIFFEY JR.
SWIMSUIT: DANIELA PESTOVA
VINCE CARTER
SOSA, GRIFFEY, McGWIRE
Don't Question My Desire!
FRANK THOMAS
IOWA STATE'S MARCUS FIZER
PEDRO MARTINEZ
Tiger Rules
TIGER WOODS
Spartan Warrior
MATEEN CLEAVES
THE WORST FRANCHISE IN SPORTS HISTORY
THE WOEFUL CLIPPERS
The Almighty Buc
KEYSHAWN JOHNSON
Exposed!
VLADIMIR GUERRERO
The Best He's Ever Been
RANDY JOHNSON
Ouch!
SOARING TICKET PRICES
WHITEWASH!
BOBBY KNIGHT
BRIAN GRANT & KOBE BRYANT
ANNA KOURNIKOVA
Survivors!
KOBE BRYANT
Over and Out!
JASON ARNOTT
Any Questions?
TIGER WOODS
Can Dennis Miller Survive Monday Night Football?
DENNIS MILLER
Diet
DAVID WELLS
The New Face of Baseball
JASON GIAMBI
Tour de Force
LANCE ARMSTRONG
Where Are They Now?
REFRIGERATOR PERRY
Electric
MICHAEL VICK
The Man
MIKE PIAZZA
Guts and Glory
TIGER WOODS
Back from the Brink
RYAN LEAF
Gold Rush
OLYMPIC PREVIEW
FIRED
BOBBY KNIGHT
Pool Sharks
MEGAN QUANN
Under the Gun
MARION JONES
On Fire!
KURT WARNER
Pennant Fever!
JIM EDMONDS
Subway Series!
DEREK JETER†
Young and Youngest
DARIUS MILES & KEVIN GARNETT
Back On Top
OKLAHOMA'S QUENTIN GRIFFIN
Remember the Titans
EDDIE GEORGE
SHANE BATTIER
State by State Results
FSU'S TRAVIS MINOR
Daunte Culpepper
I want to be the best Ever!
DAUNTE CULPEPPER
The War Zone
LAMAR SMITH
TIGER WOODS
give it up for the fans
CHRIS ROCK
01
Case Closed!
QUENTIN GRIFFIN
Baltimore Bullies
RAVENS VS. TITANS
R Rated
AMANI TOOMER
D-Day
SUPER BOWL PREVIEW
41-0
GIANTS VS. RAVENS
Cheap Thrills
THE XFL
The Greatest Show on Court
SACRAMENTO KINGS
SWIMSUIT: ELSA BENITEZ
DEATH OF A CHAMPION
DALE EARNHARDT
A Cut Above
NOMAR GARCIAPARRA
The Second Coming
MARIO LEMIEUX
TOUGHNESS THE KEY TO SURVIVAL
DUKE VS. MARYLAND
Why Fight It?
DEREK JETER
The Four Keys to the Final Four
FINAL FOUR PREVIEW†
DUKE WINS NCAA FINALS
Masterpiece
TIGER WOODS
love story
ALLEN IVERSON
Miracles?
MATT LAWTON
PLAY NOW, PAY LATER
JOHNNY UNITAS
NEW JUICE
ALLEN IVERSON & VINCE CARTER
Exclusive
A Week in the Life of an NBA Playoff Team
CHARLOTTE HORNETS
Red Hot
ICHIRO SUZUKI
Get Out of Our Way!
SHAQUILLE O'NEAL
Humble Hero
LARRY WALKER
A Long Seat!
RAY BOURQUE
Together Again
SHAQ & KOBE
Where Are They Now?
COWBOYS CHEERLEADERS
Shock Wave
BRET BOONE
A True All-American
BILLS OG BOB KALSU
David Duval
Living Legends
DAVID DUVAL
He Delivers
LANCE ARMSTRONG
COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW
Ten Years After
MAGIC JOHNSON
THE MOST OVERRATED AND UNDERRATED
OVERRATED/UNDERRATED
Pace It
MARSHALL FAULK
ROCK OF AGES
ROGER CLEMENS
Fresno?
DAVID CARR
The Week That Sports Stood Still
9/11
Coming Back
JAY FIEDLER
Smashing!
BARRY BONDS
TAKE WHAT'S YOURS
TEXAS VS. OKLAHOMA
DEREK JETER
MICHAEL JORDAN RETIRES AGAIN! GUNS SHAQ
MICHAEL JORDAN
sizzling series
RANDY JOHNSON
Unforgettable!
ARIZONA WINS WORLD SERIES
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JASON WILLIAMS
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ERIC CROUCH
Skins Game
STEPHEN DAVIS
in your face
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SCHILLING & JOHNSON

N.Y.C. FIREFIGHTERS

02

MIAMI WINS FIESTA BOWL

MICHAEL JORDAN

SI'S COVER JINX

JASON KIDD

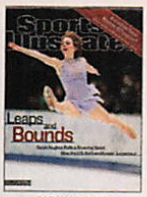
SWIMSUIT: YAMILA DIAZ-RAHI

APOLO OHNO

PATRIOTS WIN SUPER BOWL

LEBRON JAMES

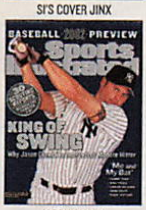
CHRIS WITTY



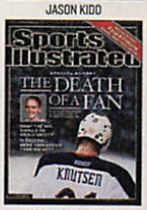
SARAH HUGHES

CHARLES BARKLEY

NICK COLLISON†

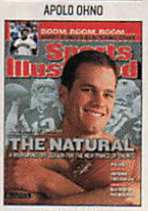


JASON GIAMBI



HOCKEY FAN KILLED

MARYLAND WINS NCAA FINALS



TOM BRADY

TIGER WOODS

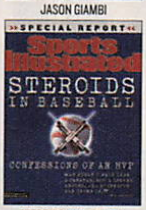
KENYON MARTIN

DIRK NOWITZKI

TREVOR HOFFMAN

MIKE TYSON

CLINT MATHIS



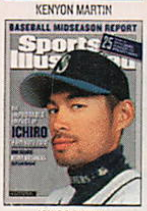
STEROIDS IN BASEBALL

JASON KIDD & KOBE BRYANT

SHAQUILLE O'NEAL

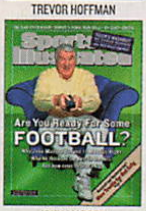
LANDON DONOVAN

DALE EARNHARDT JR.



ICHIRO SUZUKI

TED WILLIAMS



JOHN MADDEN

LANCE ARMSTRONG

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW

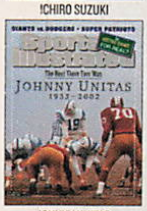
DAVID CARR

ALFONSO SORIANO

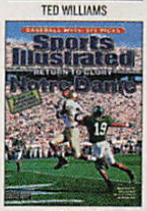
NFL PREVIEW

JON GRUDEN & WARREN SAPP

9/11—ONE YEAR LATER

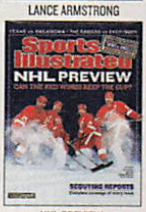


JOHNNY UNITAS



NOTRE DAME

BEST SPORTS COLLEGES



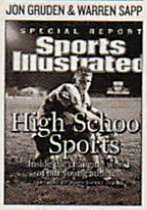
NHL PREVIEW

OKLAHOMA FOOTBALL

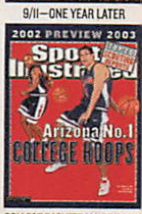
YAO MING

ANGELS WIN WORLD SERIES

JOEY HARRINGTON

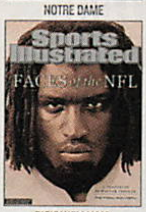


HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS



COLLEGE BASKETBALL PREVIEW

MAURICE CLARETT



RICKY WILLIAMS

LANCE ARMSTRONG

BRETT FAVRE

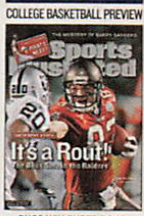
YEAR IN REVIEW

03

OHIO STATE WINS FIESTA BOWL

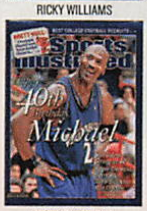
OAKLAND RAIDERS

SUPER BOWL PREVIEW

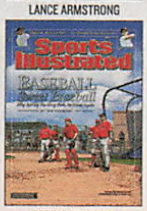


BUCS WIN SUPER BOWL

YAO MING

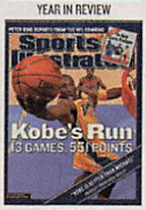


MICHAEL JORDAN



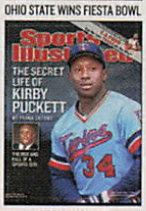
SPRING TRAINING

SWIMSUIT: PETRA NEMCOVA



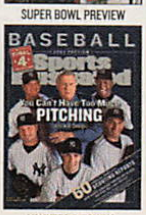
KOBE BRYANT

KENTUCKY'S CLIFF HAWKINS



KIRBY PUCKETT

MARCH MADNESS



YANKEES PITCHING

FINAL FOUR PREVIEW†

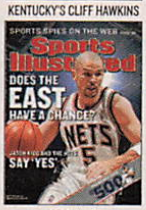
SYRACUSE WINS NCAA FINALS

MIKE WEIR

CARSON PALMER

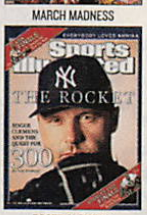
MOST INFLUENTIAL MINORITIES

BOBBY JACKSON



JASON KIDD

SERENA WILLIAMS



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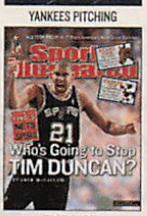

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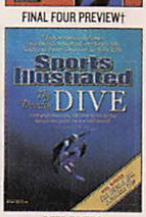

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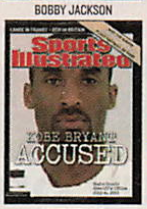
THE GENESIS OF SI



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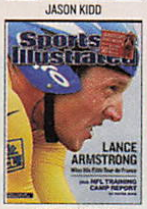
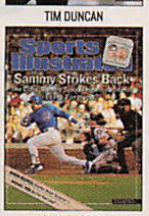


LANCE ARMSTRONG

OHIO STATE'S CRAIG KRENZEL

BILL PARCELLS



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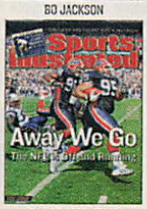
OHIO STATE VS. WASHINGTON



BILLS' DT SAM ADAMS

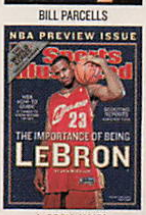
MIA HAMM

OREGON QB JASON FIFE

BRONCOS QB JAKE PLUMMER

PEDRO MARTINEZ†

OKLAHOMA QB JASON WHITE



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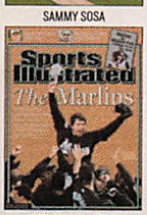
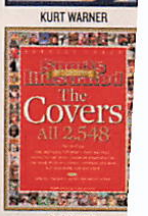


MARLINS WIN SERIES



SI COVERS

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TOYOTA
TRUCKS
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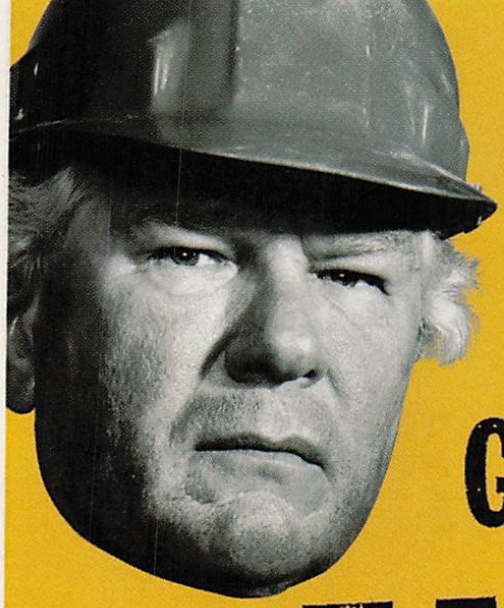

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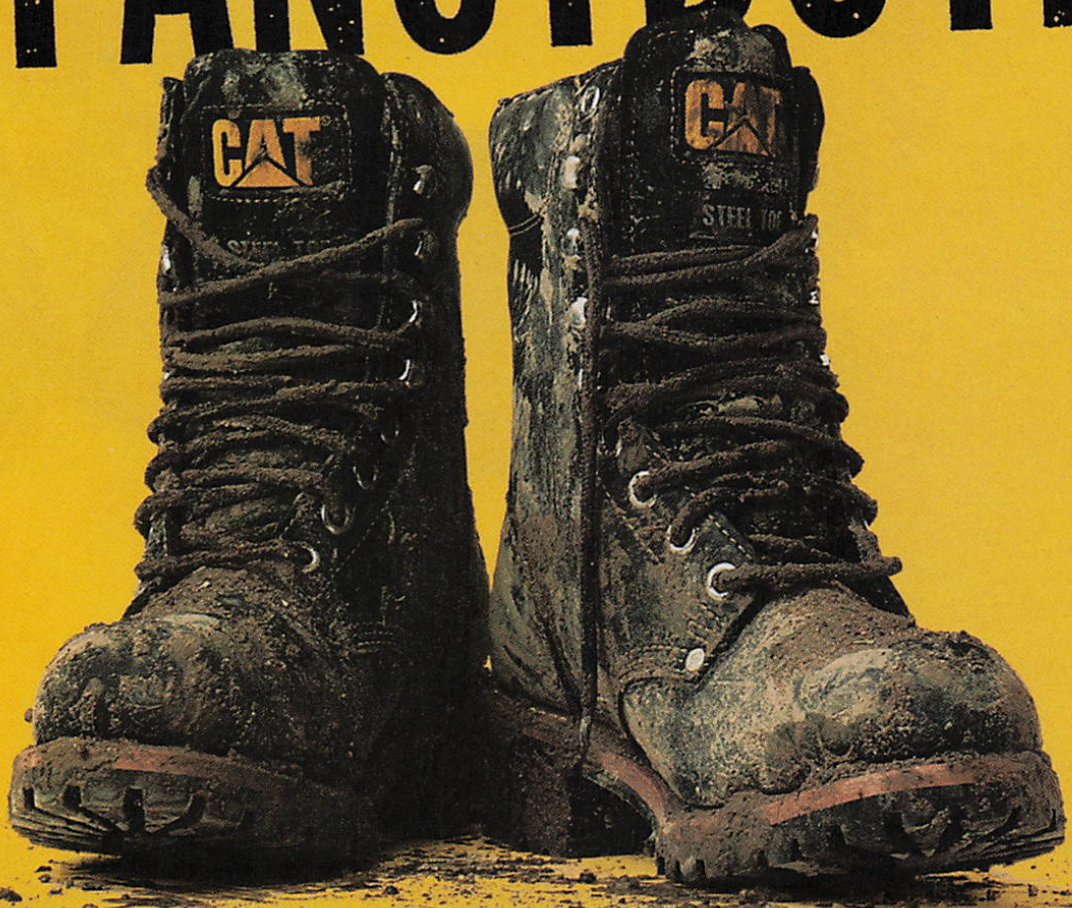

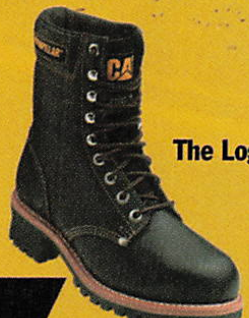

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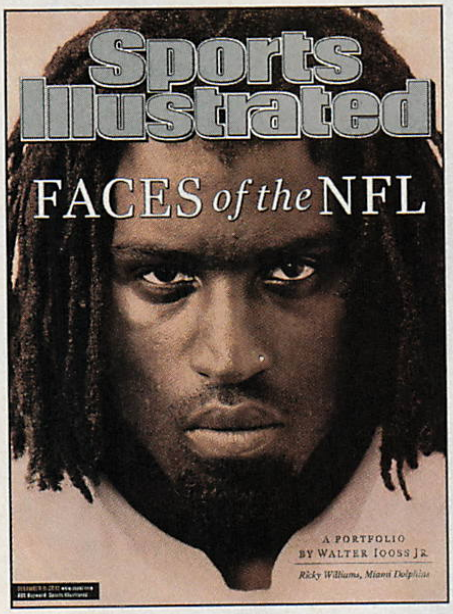
FROM THE GROUND UP.™

> the photographers

The best shooters are as competitive as the athletes they cover, so SI helps them keep score (and, yes, this list includes Joe DiMaggio, but, no, it's not the Yankee Clipper)



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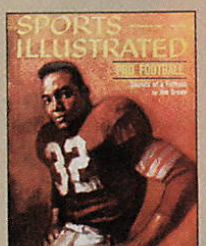

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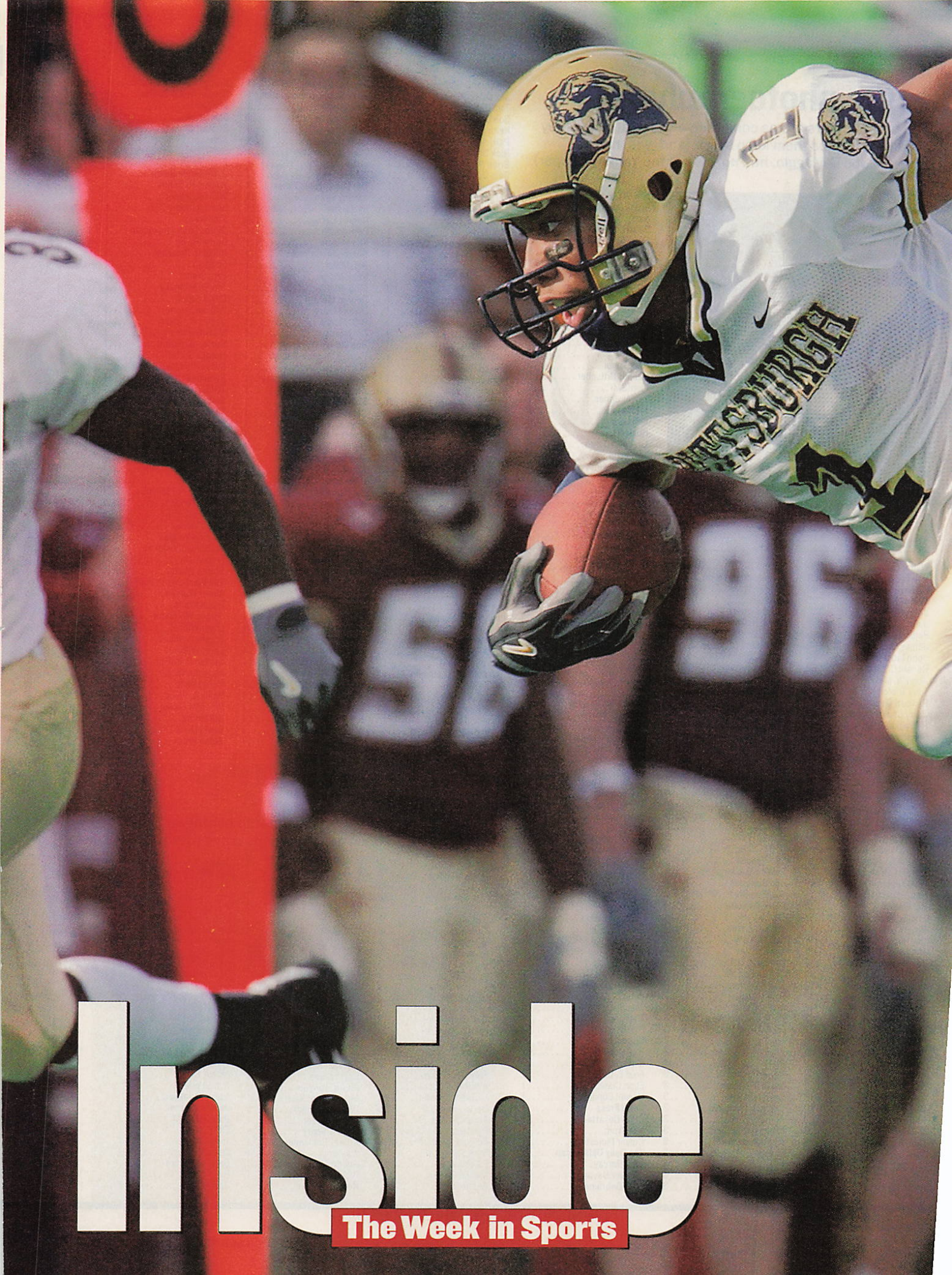
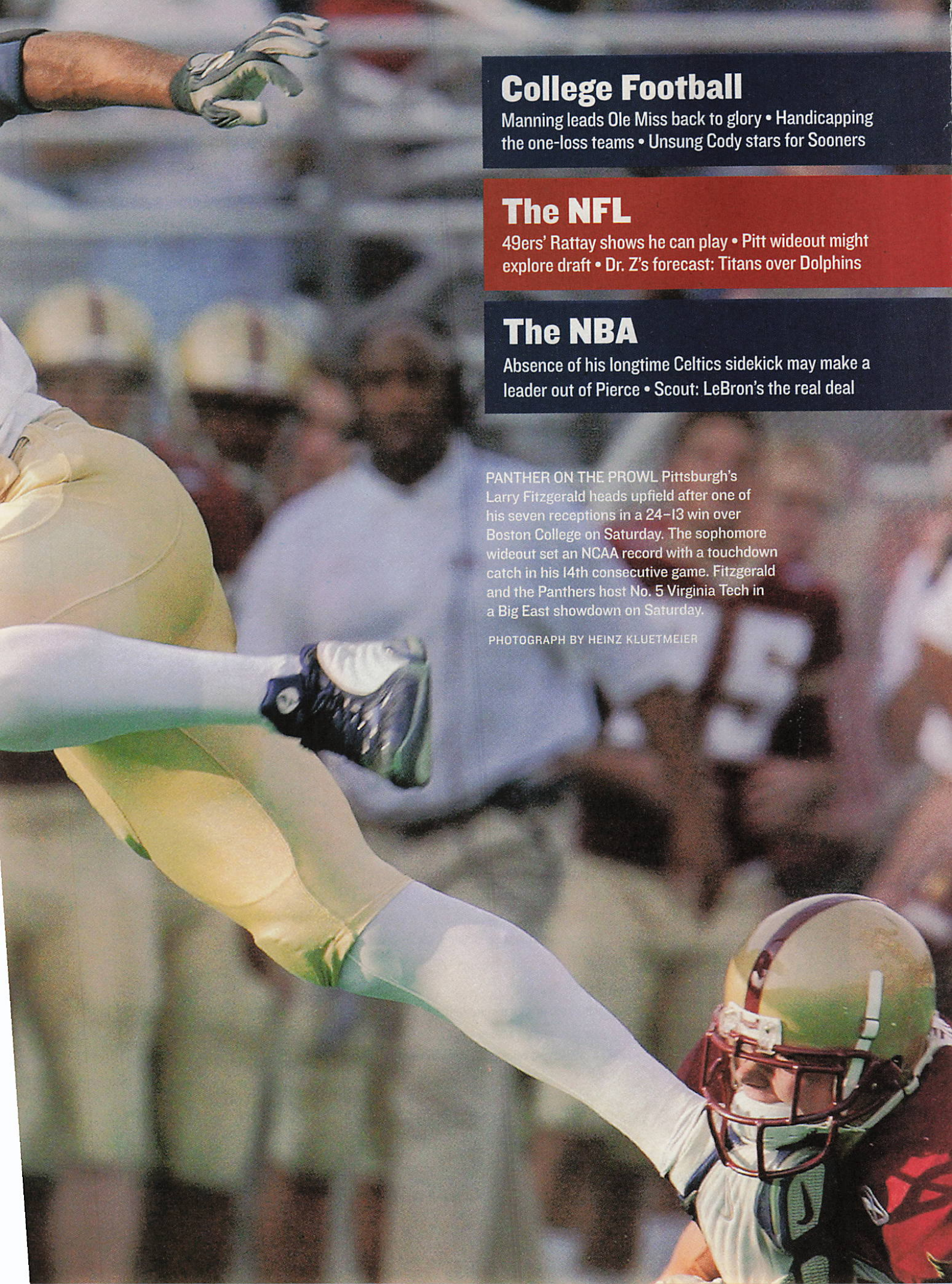


Inside

The Week in Sports



College Football

Manning leads Ole Miss back to glory • Handicapping the one-loss teams • Unsung Cody stars for Sooners

The NFL

49ers' Rattay shows he can play • Pitt wideout might explore draft • Dr. Z's forecast: Titans over Dolphins

The NBA

Absence of his longtime Celtics sidekick may make a leader out of Pierce • Scout: LeBron's the real deal

PANTHER ON THE PROWL Pittsburgh's Larry Fitzgerald heads upfield after one of his seven receptions in a 24–13 win over Boston College on Saturday. The sophomore wideout set an NCAA record with a touchdown catch in his 14th consecutive game. Fitzgerald and the Panthers host No. 5 Virginia Tech in a Big East showdown on Saturday.

PHOTOGRAPH BY HEINZ KLUETMEIER

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Inside College Football

Manning showed his poise in a win over South Carolina, throwing for 391 yards and three TDs.

Like Ole Times

Mississippi, led by Eli Manning, is atop the SEC for the first time in 40 years

by Kelley King

IT DIDN'T matter that he had already broken 24 school passing records, or that 17 starters were returning from a 7–6 team. By the start of Eli Manning's senior season at Ole Miss, most Rebels fans had given up hope that their highest-profile player in decades would lead the school back to the top of the SEC. Although Manning had thrown for 6,349 yards and 52 touchdowns over the previous two seasons, Ole Miss had gone 14–10. The verdict on the second Manning era seemed inevitable: Eli, the third son of former Rebels hero Archie, was a fine player on a mediocre team.

This season, however, Ole Miss is rewriting the final chapter. With a 43–40 win over South Carolina last Saturday, the No. 20 Rebels are 7–2, and 5–0 in the SEC for the first time since 1963. The defense, which folded like a card table in the heart of its conference schedule last year, held Florida and Arkansas to a total of three touchdowns. The running game, which averaged an SEC-low 94.3 yards a game in 2002, is averaging 168.1 this season. "It goes back to [last year's win over] Nebraska in the Independence Bowl, which reinforced the players' belief that we have the strength to match up with better teams," says Rebels coach David Cutcliffe. "It isn't just about Eli."

But Ole Miss's success this season still has a lot to do with Eli. His stats had dipped slightly as a junior, and that influenced his decision to return to school for his senior year. Archie had learned from NFL sources that Eli could have gone as late as the third round if he'd decided to enter last spring's quarterback-rich draft. But even so, coming back to Ole Miss wasn't an easy decision. Says Eli, "I thought, If I'm going to do this, I'm going to need to be a better leader."

True to his word, the quarterback has become the Rebels' biggest rouser. Players who dog it during practice or take plays off during games hear it from their quarterback, even though that role doesn't come naturally to Eli. "He's never been a real verbal guy—that was more of Peyton's thing," says Archie.

In turn, his teammates have worked hard to improve after a pair of September losses, to Memphis and Texas Tech. When Manning struggled against Arkansas on Oct. 25, the leaders of the defense told him to protect the ball and they would take care of the rest. They did, and Ole Miss won, 19–7. And while the defense yielded 40 points to South Carolina, senior running back Tremaine Turner ran for 117 yards and two touchdowns while Manning threw for three more scores. Free from the burden of trying to carry the team, Manning leads the SEC in passing efficiency, having thrown for 2,663 yards and 20 touchdowns with just eight interceptions.

While fans are talking about Manning's Heisman chances or

Head to Head This Week

Pittsburgh WR Larry Fitzgerald *versus* Virginia Tech CB Eric Green

Fitzgerald, a 6′ 3″, 225-pound sophomore, has 60 catches and leads Division I-A with 146.7 receiving yards per game. He has caught at least one TD pass in an NCAA-record 14 straight games. With Hokies star corner DeAngelo Hall suspended for the first half, after getting ejected for fighting against Miami, the pressure of containing Fitzgerald falls to Green, a 5′ 11″, 189-pound junior. Green isn't as good as Hall, but he's an above average corner and has two interceptions.

where he'll go in the draft—he's projected as a first-round pick—Manning is more interested in leading Ole Miss to the SEC title. It won't be easy, as the Rebels go on the road to play Auburn this week and then host LSU.

For his part Eli says the NFL can wait. "With the way things are going for us," he says, "I'm more excited for the next game."

Ohio State's Lydell Ross

The Race For No. 2

Here are the five one-loss teams vying for the second spot in the BCS rankings behind Oklahoma, and their outlook the rest of the way.

School	AP Rank	BCS Rank
USC (8–1)	2	2
Schedule: at Arizona, UCLA, Oregon St.		
Even if the Trojans win out, not playing another ranked team could cost them		
Florida State (8–1)	3	3
Schedule: at Clemson, N.C. State, at Florida		
Seminoles could sneak into title game, just like in 2000 (SIDELINES, *right*)		
Miami (7–1)	6	4
Schedule: Tennessee, Syracuse, Rutgers, at Pittsburgh		
The Hurricanes will need some help but they are far from out of it		
Ohio State (8–1)	7	5
Schedule: Michigan State, Purdue, at Michigan		
Buckeyes could get New Orleans invite with wins over three ranked opponents		
Virginia Tech (7–1)	5	6
Schedule: Pittsburgh, at Temple, Boston College, at Virginia		
Even if Tech runs the table, it is unlikely to recover from a loss to West Virginia		

Oklahoma's Dan Cody

Unheralded, and Unstoppable

With leading candidates for the Heisman and Outland trophies and the Biletnikoff, Butkus, Lombardi and Thorpe awards, No. 1 Oklahoma could have more hardware than a Home Depot by the end of the season. Defensive end Dan Cody is one of the few Sooners starters who's not on the short list for any individual awards, but he probably should be.

Cody, a 6' 5", 270-pound junior, has been one of the most consistent members of Oklahoma's relentless defense, which didn't allow an offensive touchdown in a 52–9 rout of No. 15 Oklahoma State on Saturday. His three first-half sacks all came at key moments—the first forced a fumble from Cowboys quarterback Josh Fields that led to an Oklahoma field goal, and the other two both stopped drives.

Sooners co–defensive coordinator Mike Stoops calls Cody the most improved player on his defense. "He's always had natural speed-rushing instincts, and now he's added technique," says Stoops. "He's gone from good to great."

Cody doesn't get as much recognition as some of the Sooners' other defensive stalwarts—including tackle Tommie Harris, linebacker Teddy Lehman and defensive back Derrick Strait—and he certainly wouldn't think of calling attention to himself. Asked for a description of his first sack, he said, "The offensive lineman fell down, or forgot to block me, or something."

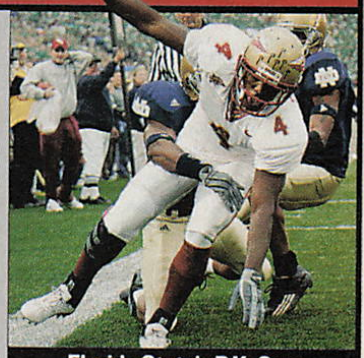
While his teammates are sure to gather individual awards at season's end, the only hardware that Cody is interested in are the Big 12 and national championship trophies. "Those are the only ones that really matter," he says. However, Cody did get to take home one individual award after his outstanding play on Saturday—a game ball. —*Phil Taylor*

Phil Taylor's Sidelines

SUGAR AND SPICE

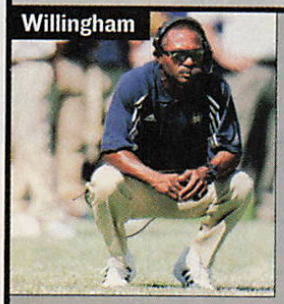
Miami's 31–7 loss at Virginia Tech made a mess of the BCS picture (chart, *left*), which almost always seems to be good news for Florida State. The Seminoles have a history of emerging from BCS chaos to play for the national championship.

In 1998 they had one loss but got the Fiesta Bowl invitation over another one-loss team, Kansas State. In 2000 the Seminoles went to the Orange Bowl even though they had the same record as Miami, a team that had beaten them earlier in the season.



Florida State's P.K. Sam

It's not hard to imagine the same scenario occurring this year. The Seminoles' win over Notre Dame, coupled with Miami's loss, moved Florida State behind USC and just ahead of Miami in the BCS ratings. If the Seminoles win their three remaining games, they'll most likely pass the Trojans and stay ahead of the Hurricanes (Miami beat Florida State 22–14 on Oct. 11) because of their tougher schedule. If that happens, the BCS will have failed again, but don't expect any tears in Tallahassee.



Willingham

TARNISHED DOME

A year ago, Notre Dame fans thought of coach **Tyrone Willingham** in relation to former coaches **Bob Davie** and **Gerry Faust** the same way someone who's found the perfect spouse reflects on a previous marriage that had gone sour. But lately the Fighting Irish have looked no better than the mediocre teams from those dark times.

After his first 21 games under the Golden Dome, Willingham is 12–9, the latest loss coming as the Irish were booed at home while they were routed 37–0 by Florida State to fall to 2–6. By comparison, Faust was 11–9–1 and Davie was 14–7 at the same juncture.

It's unfair to pass final judgment on Willingham until he's had a chance to stock the team with his own recruits. However, it's worth noting that Willingham's Stanford career had a similar pattern, with early success followed by a pair of down years before the Cardinal became a solid Pac-10 team. Another of Willingham's predecessors, **Lou Holtz**, was only 13–8 after 21 games at Notre Dame. He lost two more in a row before winning 41 of his next 46. Eventually Willingham will have to produce a similar run.

THREE'S COMPANY

Florida coach Ron Zook

Florida's 16–13 win over Georgia left the Gators, Bulldogs and Tennessee with two conference losses each in the SEC East and set up a potentially fascinating resolution to the division race. If there is a three-way tie (each team is 1–1 against the other two), the champ could be determined by the final tiebreaker—a vote of the conference athletic directors. Imagine the possibilities. There could be more alliances and vengeful tactics than on an entire season of *Survivor*. (The ADs at the three schools involved won't vote.) Would the heated rivalry between Tennessee and Alabama influence Crimson Tide AD **Mal Moore**'s vote? There's no telling what would happen with a secret ballot. That's why logic says the better alternative would be to award the title to the team with the highest BCS ranking. But it would be much more entertaining to let the ADs hash it out.

EXTRA POINTS

N.C. State sophomore tailback **T.A. McLendon** vomited before Saturday's game with Virginia, which his teammates knew was a good sign. "We win every time he throws up," says wideout **Jerricho Cotchery**. McLendon had 216 total yards and the Wolfpack won 51–37. . . . LSU may be the most overlooked one-loss team in the country, but not in the mind of Louisiana Tech coach **Jack Bicknell**, whose team lost to the Tigers 49–10. Says Bicknell, "We played Miami, and I promise you, they are better than Miami."

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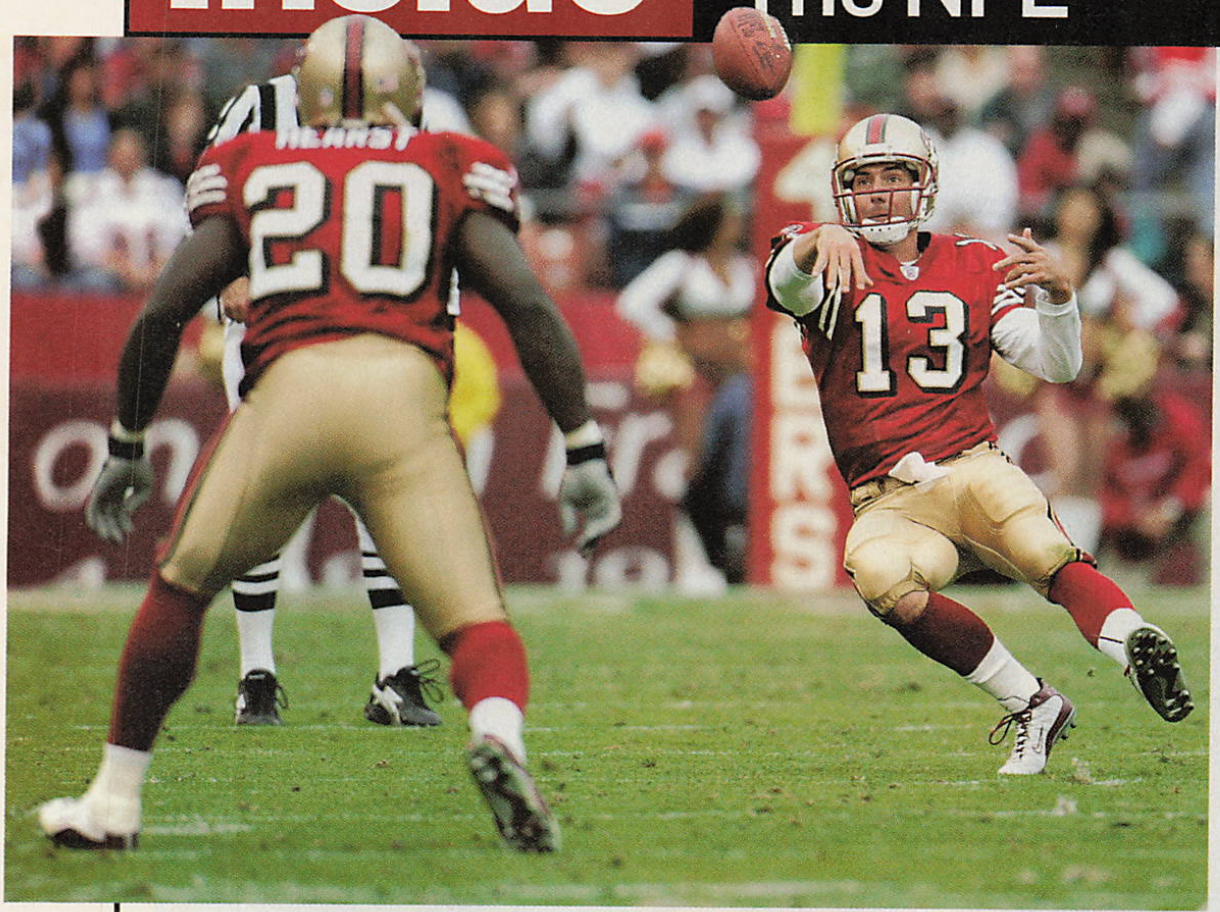


Rattay was quick on his feet, changing plays at the line and throwing for three scores.

Second Blessing

In leading an upset of the Rams, Tim Rattay proved the 49ers have a backup quarterback they can count on

by Peter King

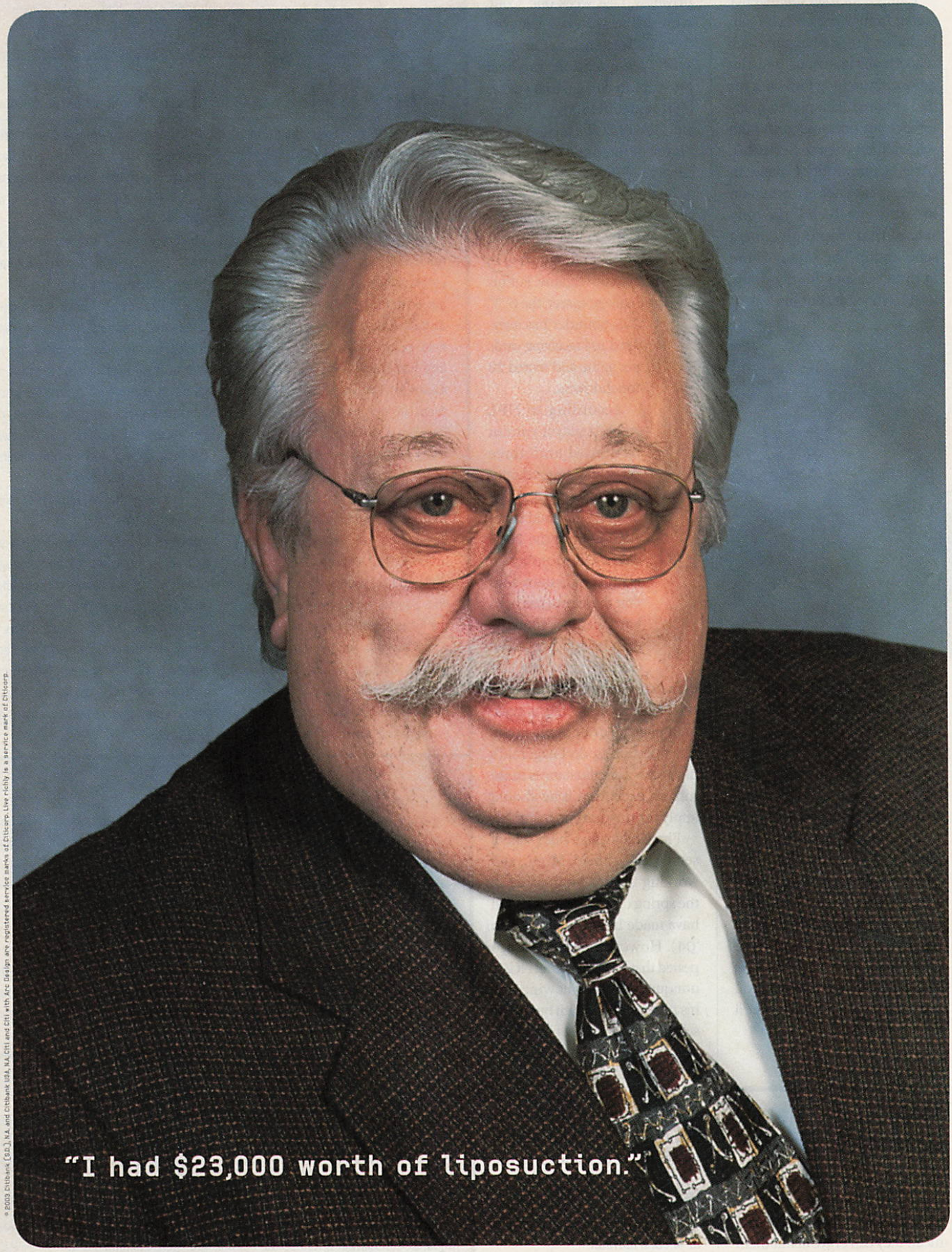
IT WAS THE summer of 2000 and rookie Giovanni Carmazzi, a third-round draft choice out of Hofstra and supposedly next in line after the newly retired Steve Young in the 49ers' succession of star quarterbacks, was sitting in his dormitory room at training camp, watching Joe Montana being inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on TV. At one point during Montana's speech, fellow rookie passer Tim Rattay, a seventh-round pick out of Louisiana Tech, breezed into the room, grabbed his playbook and mumbled something about going to study before afternoon practice. The moment didn't seem significant at the time, but it does now: Rattay was a pure student of the game, Carmazzi seemed in awe of the NFL environment.

As a backup to free-agent pickup and former CFL standout Jeff Garcia, Carmazzi never took an NFL snap and was waived in July 2002. Meanwhile, Rattay kept studying and working hard, and on Sunday he made his first NFL start. Subbing for an injured Garcia, Rattay led San Francisco to a 30–10 upset of the Rams. He completed 19 of 29 passes for 236 yards and three touchdowns, throwing one interception, as the NFC West race tightened up.

In today's NFL the quality of a team's backup quarterback can mean the difference between missing the postseason and winning an NFL title. In 1999, for instance, the Super Bowl–hopeful Jets lost starter Vinny Testaverde with an Achilles injury in Week 1 and finished 8–8 with Rick Mirer and Ray Lucas at quarterback. Two years later Tom Brady took over the Patriots' starting job from Drew Bledsoe in Week 3 and keyed New England's run to the championship. Sometimes a team doesn't know if it has a quality backup until it is forced to use him. San Francisco now knows that it has one.

When the 49ers come off their bye for a Nov. 17 game against Pittsburgh, they will almost certainly start Garcia, who has been banged up all year and sat out on Sunday with a left ankle sprain. However, if Garcia continues to struggle—a 62% passer before this season, he's completing only 55% of his attempts, and his 72.0 passer rating is 18 points below his career mark coming into this year—the Niners shouldn't hesitate to use Rattay.

On Sunday nothing seemed to rattle him as he audibled on two of his three touchdown passes. Leading 17–3 midway through the second quarter, San Francisco had a first down at the St. Louis 27. A running play was called in the huddle, but when Rattay got to the line he saw a safety creeping up, giving the Rams an eighth run-stopping defender in the box. Also, left cornerback Jerametrius Butler was cheating toward the line to jam rookie wideout Brandon Lloyd. "I audibled to an all-go," Rattay said afterward. "They were coming to stop the run, and I knew Brandon would be singled up." Lloyd stutter-stepped off the line and got half a step on Butler, and Rattay threw a rainbow pass to the goal line. Lloyd sprinted under it for the touchdown. "Perfect throw," Lloyd said, "but that's Tim. He's smart enough to throw it where only I can get it."



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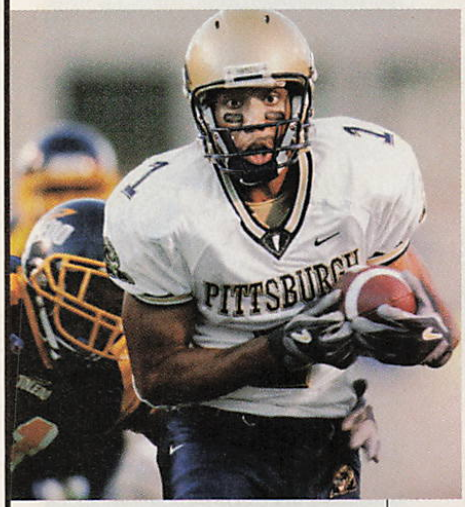
Rattay's football intelligence comes from being a coach's son; his father, Jim, is a longtime high school coach in Arizona, and Tim grew up watching film with his dad at home. Tim played quarterback for one season in high school, then went to Scottsdale (Ariz.) Community College in 1995. A year later he moved on to Louisiana Tech ("the only school that would give me a scholarship," he says), where in three seasons Rattay threw for 12,746 yards. But his lack of size (6 feet, 190 pounds) was a big reason he slipped to the seventh round of the draft.



One scout says Fitzgerald would be the highest-rated player in the 2004 draft.

"I just want to play football," Rattay said on Sunday night. "And when I'm done playing, I want to be a coach. All the other stuff, the media and public stuff around the game, I can do without." If he plays many more games like he did against the Rams, Rattay will have a lot more attention that he'll have to deal with.

Pitt's Larry Fitzgerald

Will Sophomore Challenge Draft?

NFL scouts are forbidden from commenting publicly on college underclassmen, but that doesn't mean they can't rave about them privately. Last week one scout, who this season has traveled from College Park to Corvallis, said, "No question, the best prospect in college this year is [Pitt wideout] Larry Fitzgerald. He'd easily be the top-rated player in the draft next year if he were eligible."

Fitzgerald set an NCAA record in the Panthers' 24–13 win over Boston College last Saturday, catching a touchdown pass in a 14th consecutive game. For his 20-game college career, the 6' 3" 225-pounder has averaged 104 receiving yards per game and scored 28 touchdowns.

According to NFL rules, a player cannot be drafted until three years after he graduates from high school, which means Fitzgerald is not eligible until the 2005 draft. On Monday an NFL spokesman said that the league has been hard and fast about its draft rules, but he added that extenuating circumstances are taken into consideration before a ruling is made on a player's draft application. The question is, do Fitzgerald's high school circumstances make him an exception if he should apply for the draft next spring?

Fitzgerald was a high school senior in Richfield, Minn., and working toward graduating in the spring of 2001 (which would have made him draft eligible in '04). However, because it appeared that he would be an NCAA nonqualifier the following fall, his parents pulled him out of the school in the middle of his senior year and sent him to Valley Forge (Pa.) Military Academy in January 2001. There he repeated the second semester of his junior year and then played a fifth year of football. He graduated in the

SI.com *Peter King's Monday Morning Quarterback, every week at* **si.com/football.**

King's Corner

TRADING E-MAIL WITH . . .

Panthers kicker John Kasay, 18 for 18 on field goal tries this season

SI: So how does it feel to be perfect?
Kasay: Perfect? Ha! All you have to do is ask my family. They'll let you know there was only one perfect person—"and, Daddy, you're not Him!" I am proof that God has a great sense of humor. I can't run, jump, throw, catch, block or tackle, yet I have played in the NFL for 13 years.
SI: You've kicked three game-winning field goals in overtime this season. Ever had a run like that before?
Kasay: No. I've played on one winning team in my career [1996, when Carolina was 12–4]. It's hard to have many game-winners when you're not winning.
SI: What's going through your mind when you go out for a field goal in OT?
Kasay: It's a pretty elementary process. The challenge is doing it while 80,000 people are screaming at you. Sometimes it's more fun to make the kicks on the road. When we make a kick that wins on the road, the only people who are celebrating are my teammates. [The atmosphere in] the stadium goes from rock concert to piano recital in a couple of seconds.
SI: Other than a strong leg, what's the most important trait of a good kicker?
Kasay: The ability to handle success and failure. You deal with both on almost a daily basis.
SI: Can you walk through a mall or into a restaurant in Charlotte without being recognized?
Kasay: First of all, I have four kids—eight, six, three and 16 months—and there is no way we are going to take all four of them to the mall. When we all go out to eat—which is not that often because my wife is a great cook—I will get recognized occasionally. Usually I'm told, "Wow, you're much smaller than I thought you were."
SI: How long does an important miss stay with you?
Kasay: Forever. I still remember kicks I missed in high school and college [Georgia]. The challenge is to not let a miss affect the next kick. The one that was probably the most hurtful was a field goal I missed in my first regular-season game, a 37-yarder off the right hash against the Saints in 1991. It was the last play, and we lost by a point or two. It's still excruciating.

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

For his 11 career touchdowns, Chiefs return man and wideout Dante Hall has averaged 79.8 yards per score. That's the highest average alltime among players who have scored at least 10 touchdowns.

STAR IN THE MAKING

Eagles rookie tight end L.J. Smith

Philly's first downfield threat at tight end since Keith Jackson in the late '80s and early '90s had his coming-out party on Sunday in Atlanta: six catches for 97 yards. Smith, a second-round pick out of Rutgers, has above-average speed and excellent hands, and the 6' 3" 258-pounder can dish out punishment.

MY TWO CENTS

1. The NFL did the right thing in awarding Phoenix the 2008 Super Bowl. Now the league needs to go one step further and abandon the half-baked plan of putting the following year's title game in northern Virginia or New Jersey. The last thing we need is a Super Bowl played in winter slush.
2. Sure, the Vikings are struggling, but they'll still win the NFC North. Minnesota has a two-game lead over the Packers, and its next three games are against the Chargers, Raiders and Lions, who are a combined 5–19. —P.K.

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spring of 2002 and played as a freshman at Pitt last year.

Fitzgerald, who would have to apply by Jan. 15, has given no indication that he would try to enter next year's draft, but the only player in recent history who has turned away from a shot to be the top pick for another year in college was Peyton Manning. Says Fitzgerald's father, Larry, "All I know is he enjoys playing at Pitt, but you never know what might happen."

Dispatches

Shipp Shines As Emmitt's Sub

When Emmitt Smith returns from his broken shoulder blade later this month, Cardinals coach Dave McGinnis will face a tough decision: play Smith, the NFL's alltime leading rusher who was signed as a free agent in the off-season but who was largely ineffective before he got hurt on Oct. 5, or stick with Marcel Shipp, who has averaged 122.3 yards per game as Smith's replacement. In a win over the Bengals on Sunday, Shipp, a third-year player out of Massachusetts, ran for 141 yards to become the first Cardinals back to top 100 in consecutive games since Johnny Johnson in 1992. For the year Shipp is averaging 4.4 yards per carry and Smith 3.0. . . . The most disturbing sign for the Rams in their loss to the 49ers was the poor performance by quarterback Marc Bulger against a heavy rush. San Francisco had 11 pressures, five sacks and two interceptions. "When you get right in his face, he loses focus," said Niners defensive end Chidi Ahanotu. . . . Texans linebacker Jamie Sharper called the red jerseys his team unveiled on Sunday "feminine." Then the Texans stole a 14–10 win over Carolina. "If that's feminine," Houston center Steve McKinney said after the game, "then I guess I like feminine." □

Dr. Z's Forecast

THE ODDSMAKERS' two AFC preseason favorites to reach the Super Bowl are in trouble. We can forget about the Raiders, but there's still some hope left for the Dolphins, provided they fix things in a hurry.

Sunday's loss to the Colts left some nagging questions: Why did Ricky Williams carry the ball only twice in the second half? Is Brian Griese really the answer at quarterback? Or would it be better to have an escape artist like Jay Fiedler, who might not deliver as pretty a ball as Griese does but also won't get sacked five times, as Griese did against Indianapolis?

Williams needs more work for the Dolphins to be successful.

Also, why didn't Miami give rookie left tackle Wade Smith any help with defensive end Dwight Freeney, a speed rusher who comes around the corner quicker than a heartbeat? Freeney set up the Colts' first score with a sack that caused a fumble, and he shut down the Dolphins' final chance for a win with another sack and fumble deep in Indy territory.

There's one more concern, and it's a big one: A Miami defense that usually can be counted on to keep things under control, a unit loaded with Pro Bowl players, gave up scoring drives of 65, 72, 74 and 91 yards to the Colts.

O.K., Indianapolis has one of the most talented offenses in the league. But this weekend Miami faces another daunting opponent, Tennessee, which has scored 30 or more points in each of its last five games and averaged 411 yards in its last four. It's a toss-up whether Peyton Manning, who gave the Dolphins such a hard time last week, or the Titans' Steve McNair is the AFC's best quarterback. Manning does it with his arm and his brain; McNair adds the dimension of his running. Plus, Tennessee is coming into the game rested after a bye week.

Miami's at a crossroads. If the Dolphins can spring an upset, they'll be 6–3 and back on track with a wild-card edge on the Titans. A loss and they'll be just another scrambling 5–4 team, chasing the Patriots in the AFC East race and none too certain as a wild card. Historically, Miami has an edge, having beaten Tennessee five straight times, but that's the only edge I can give the Dolphins. **The Titans win it.**

It seems as if the Jets play the Raiders on the West Coast every year. Over the past four seasons New York has traveled to Oakland six times, losing five, including a pair of playoff games. But in all the years of this great rivalry, going back to Heidi and Ben Davidson and Joe Namath, the Jets never have been favored in Raiderland. Now they are. At 2–6 New York is in trouble, but 2–6 Oakland is in worse shape. The **Jets** are the pick in a wild one.

It's an odd-numbered game for Tampa Bay (4–4), which means it's the Bucs' week to win. They lose the even-numbered games, though there was nothing odder than their overtime loss to the Panthers in Week 2, when Carolina blocked three kicks. Tampa Bay's defense remains banged up, but I just can't see this team losing if it's sufficiently aroused. The **Bucs** are the pick.

The Texans are coming off one of their typical shocking victories, while the Bengals are coming off a nasty loss to the Cardinals. Naturally I favor the angry team, which is **Cincinnati.** Dallas-Washington was one of those games that was an embarrassment to both organizations, and from it comes a **Cowboys** victory over Buffalo, as a measure of atonement, and a Redskins loss to the **Seahawks,** just to show that the Dallas game was no fluke. The **Packers** keep it going against the Eagles in the Monday nighter, and in an intriguing Sunday-night game, matching the Super Bowl winners of 2000 and '01, the **Rams** and their high-powered offense will prevail on their home turf against the still formidable Ravens' defense.

—Paul Zimmerman

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Last week: 4–5 Season record: 45–38

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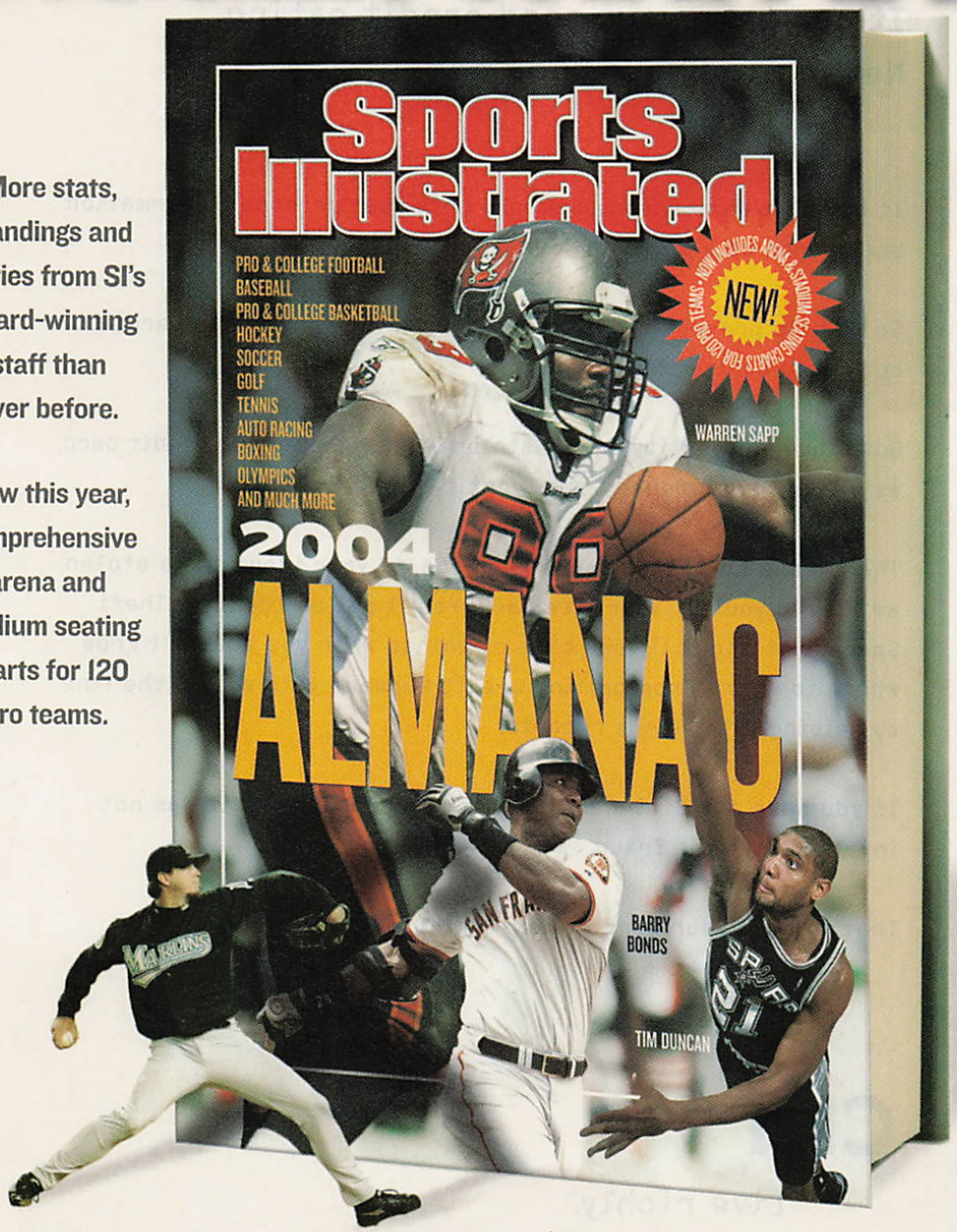

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Inside The NBA

Bird Watch

Boston is now Paul Pierce's team, but can he live up to Larry's legacy?

With longtime running mate Walker gone, Pierce is eager to jump into a leadership role.

by Ian Thomsen

EASTERN CONFERENCE rivals were ecstatic last month when the Celtics dealt All-Star forward Antoine Walker and guard Tony Delk to the Mavericks for 6' 11" Raef LaFrentz, guard Jiri Welsch, forward Chris Mills and a No. 1 pick in 2004. But Boston general manager Danny Ainge says they failed to take into account how the trade enhanced the role of his remaining All-Star, 6' 6" swingman Paul Pierce. With Walker gone, Pierce became the Celtics' undisputed leader, and Ainge believes that will help Pierce close the gap on the reigning stars at his position, Kobe Bryant and Tracy McGrady.

"With his work habits I think Paul can catch up with those few guys who are maybe a bit more talented," says Ainge. "I've never seen a guy with his talent play and work as hard as Paul—and I played with Larry Bird."

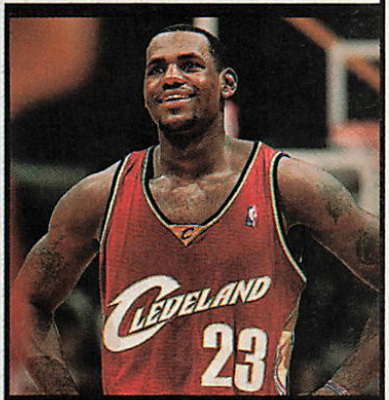
Paul Pierce and Larry Bird? The comparison will draw scoffs around the league, where many view Pierce as a me-first player—a perception that spread after his hefty shot count for the U.S. at the 2002 world championships. "I see a little bit of that," says Ainge, referring to Pierce's selfishness. "But I also see that in the players I love: Michael Jordan, McGrady, Bird. Great players need to be selfish at times. In the past Paul has done it because of a desire to win or because of a lack of trust in his teammates, not because he wants all the glory. I really believe Paul wants to win."

Though his shooting percentage plummeted to a career-low 41.6 last season, Pierce averaged career highs in rebounding (a team-leading 7.3) and assists (4.4), convincing Ainge that he can be an all-around superstar. Pierce spent a quiet summer seeking advice on leadership from mentors Magic Johnson and JoJo White with the understanding that Walker was going to be traded toward the end of 2003–04.

"I thought this was going to be our last year together," Pierce says. "But in the long run it's going to help me because I know everybody on the team is going to be watching my every move. I can't have any letdowns, I can't be a bad example for the other guys. I have to watch what I'm saying, what I'm doing. Because that's what a leader's all about."

The early results were encouraging. With Pierce averaging 23.7 points—2.2 fewer than he did last season—the Celtics won two of their first three games by pushing the tempo, sharing the ball and incorporating a resurgent Vin Baker into the offense. Pierce's trust in his teammates rose after he fouled out at Memphis last Friday, then watched as journeyman point guard Mike James stole the 93–91 win on a jumper with 1.8 seconds to play.

Pierce will never be the vocal leader that Walker is, but then neither was Bird. "I saw Paul diving on the floor and taking charges on the first day of training camp to set the tone for his team," Ainge says. "That's what Larry did. You make players better by teaching them to compete, and Paul is that type of leader." □



scout's Take

On Cavs rookie LeBron James, who in his first three games averaged 18.0 points, 7.3 rebounds and 7.7 assists:

"I can't remember another kid coming into the league who could help his team in so many ways. He could average 20 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists some day. He can fly and dunk, yet he's not a hot dog who will go for the flashy play and risk making a mistake. Against the Blazers [a 104–85 Cleveland loss last Saturday in which James scored eight points] he looked like an 18-year-old playing his third game on the road in four nights, but even though he was tired, he didn't lose his composure. The one thing I'll tell our guys is to pressure him full-court because he's not a terrific ball handler—or a terrific shooter, either."

Queer Eye for the Sports Guy

by Rick Reilly

TONIGHT ON *Queer Eye for the Sports Guy*, our gay panelists make over a straight sports columnist and leave him looking like the South Beach Dinner Theater director.

Why fight the (purple) power? Straight is *so* last week. Near Queer is here.

The signs are everywhere. Last week's episode of *Playmakers* featured the character who's a gay football player. Soccer superstar David Beckham paints his toenails and wears sarongs. Did you see Pudge Rodriguez kiss Marlins closer Ugueth Urbina nearly on the lips in the playoffs? They're both straight—not that there's anything wrong with that.

The gay stigma is toast. You go through an NFL locker room and you'll see 310-pound linemen borrowing each other's hand moisturizer, saying, "I can't believe you don't exfoliate, dude," and then leaving in salmon silk shirts.

So I called the hosts of the Bravo channel smash hit *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* and asked them to make over the column: top to bottom, left to right, until it was gay enough for Nathan Lane to read. Unfortunately, the Queer Eye boys couldn't have been less interested if I'd invited them to Jell-O Night at Cheerleaders.

Fine. I went to my gay and lesbian friends and acquaintances and asked *them* to make over the column for a week. They were delighted to help—especially after they got a look at my column picture and nearly ralphed. "Uh, about that sweater?" said my gay stylist friend, Lawrence. "Mister Rogers is dead."

Cyd Zeigler Jr., who cofounded the gay website Outsports.com, then weighed in on the turtleneck I was wearing. "Uh, hello?" he said. "Mock turtles were *never* in!"

Lawrence put me in a see-through print shirt (so now!), crammed me into leather pants (so cow!) and plucked my eyebrows (say ow!). Then he topped it all off with a beanie. "Can't you do some cool style with my hair?" I protested.

"There is no cool style I can do with that little hair," he said, clamping the beanie on tight. Suddenly, this is more like THE LIFE OF (CHARLES NELSON) REILLY.

Now, what would gay sports fans like to see in a magazine that is usually about as gay as Gen. George Patton? "Gay-sports issues," Zeigler said, "opinion and, most of all, naked pictures of [Houston Texans] quarterback David Carr!"

Name a sport and there is a gay league for it. There is gay hockey, gay football and the Gay Games. There is even gay rodeo, which features the usual rodeo events, plus "goat dressing" (contestants run around trying to put jockey shorts on a goat), "wild dragging" (contestants try to place a begowned transvestite atop a bucking bronco) and "steer decorating" (contestants try to tie a yellow bow on a steer's tail).

"Everybody rolls their eyes when you say gay rodeo," says Ken Pool, 42, a gay cowboy, "but the animals aren't gay. It's just as tough as any other rodeo."

And gay sports have nearly as many controversies as straight ones, including steroids, under-the-table payments and those full-body Speedo swimsuits in the Olympics. "We're aghast at those," says Tyler Schnoebelen, a gay water polo player. "We all cheer louder for the normal Speedos."

At the Gay Softball World Series in Washington, D.C., in August, the Houston team protested that the Atlanta team had two more straight players than the two allowed under tournament rules. How do you go about proving you are gay during a softball game?

> I went to gay and lesbian acquaintances and asked them to make over the column for a week.

Look, ump! My batting gloves match my spikes! Didn't you see me tidying up the dugout between innings? I'm dying *to be out!*

Mostly, though, the gay panelists wanted fewer words and more pictures of athletes that make them go, "Yummm."

There were many votes for more pictures of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Mike Alstott, the Minnesota Timberwolves' Wally Szczerbiak, Fox's Troy Aikman, and the center-quarterback exchange. Oh, and singer Melissa Etheridge wanted anything to do with Serena Williams. "The woman is a goddess," she said, sighing.

And Zeigler, well, he had more advice—on how to make sports more gay-friendly.

1) "Why can't the NFL throw some Internet cameras in their locker rooms?" he said. "I mean, [Denver Broncos wide receiver] Ed McCaffrey would make any straight man gay."

2) "All tennis players need to wear their shirts like Andy Roddick. You get to see his belly button with every stroke!"

3) "TV needs to show more fraternity guys in the stands with their shirts off. All we see are shots of [Utah coach] Rick Majerus!"

The point of all this was supposed to be that Queer Nation loves sports too and competes as fiercely as straights. The only difference seems to be that gays often celebrate their hard-fought victories by immediately going to the sweater department at Saks.

You know, I'm growing kind of fond of this outfit. □

If you have a comment for Rick Reilly, send it to reilly@siletters.com.

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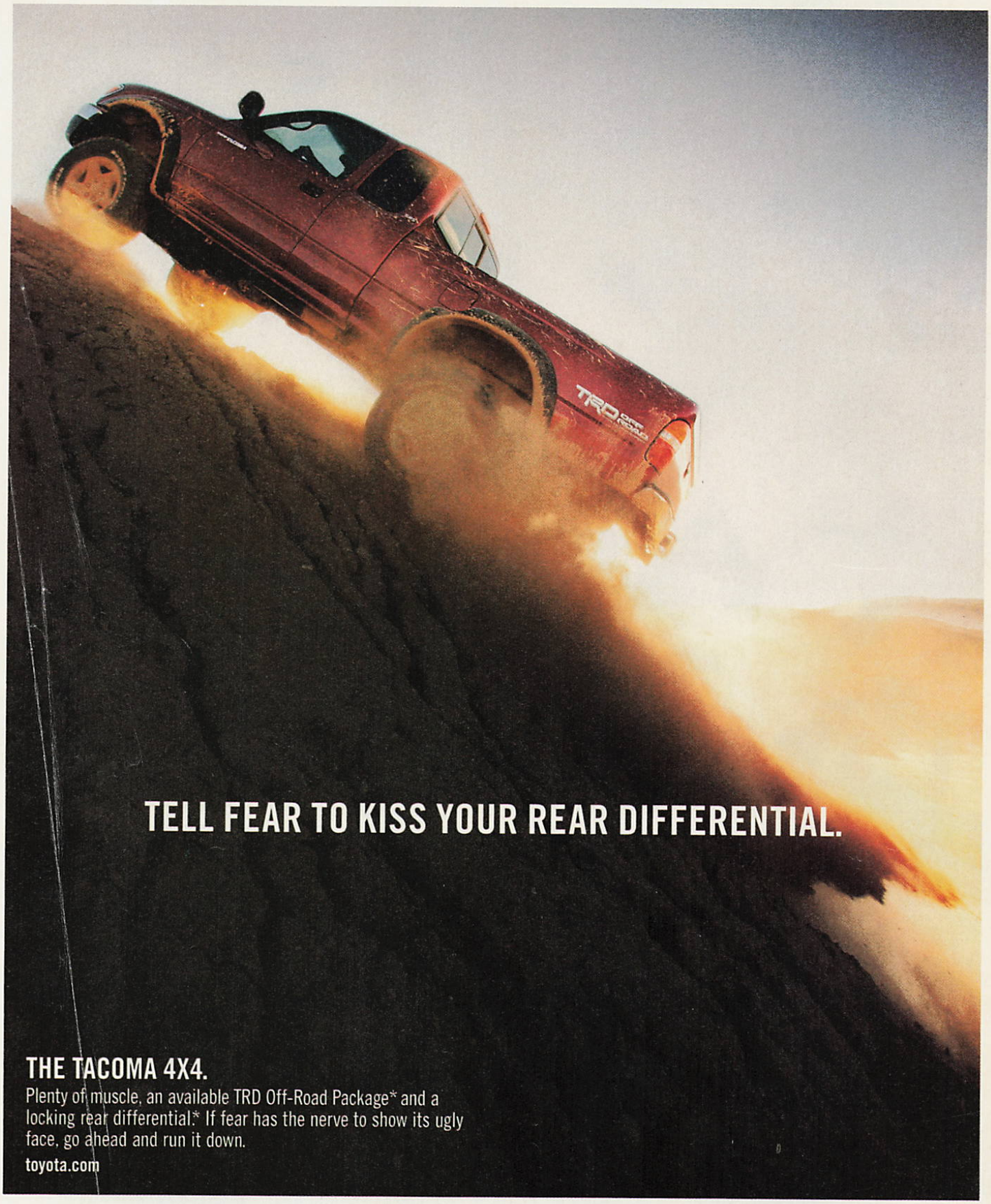

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